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A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

March [illegible]981 ★ Volume 16, Number 12 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

1981 CONTEST DETAILS

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 12 **March 26th, 1981**

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Can you believe it? Such is the fanaticism which surrounds the ritual known as "opening day." See the article "Opening Day Escape" on page 16 of this issue.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **GRELL: ON GREAT SOUTH BAY**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
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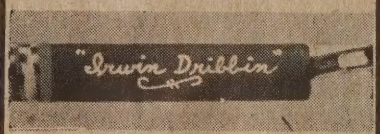

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EDITORIAL

1981 CONTEST DETAILS

Though it may be difficult to believe, the 1981 fishing season is already upon us and with it comes The Fisherman's *Skillful Angling Award Program.* This year's segment of the program is scheduled to run from April 1st through November 30th to better accommodate the cod and flounder faithful among us.

As in past years, anglers submitting weigh-in slips for fish meeting the minimum weight requirements established for each category will receive a *Skillful Angling Award* certificate, along with an award patch. Only fish weighed at *Official Long Island Fisherman Weigh Stations* are eligible for awards, but the program is open to everyone.

Subscribers entering fish in the Skillful Angling Award Program automatically become eligible for the *Sport Fishing Award Competition.* This contest will replace last year's Sport Fishing World Series and will provide thousands of dollars worth of quality fishing tackle. Included in the bounty will be rods and reels from such respected manufacturers as *Penn, Daiwa, Shakespeare, Fenwick, Kwik-Stix, Garcia, Berkley, Zebco* and *Shimano.* Rod and reel outfits, together with a handsome plaque, will go the angler landing the largest fish in each category of eligible species.

In addition to the overall competition, there will be a junior angler division for youngsters 16 years of age and under. Winners in each category will also receive a rod and reel combo along with an award plaque.

Lest the surf crowd be forgotten, there will be one prize each for the largest bass, weakfish, and bluefish dragged from the suds. Because of these additional divisions, it is especially important that all weigh-in slips be filled out *neatly* and *completely.* An incomplete blank can result in your entry being disqualified, so please take an extra minute or two and include all of the info requested. Official weigh stations should have the proper entry blanks on hand by the first weekend in April.

Several special awards will be given out this year. One will go to the individual from the private sector who has made the most significant contribution toward protecting our natural resources. A second plaque will be presented to the politician who has made the greatest contribution toward protecting the interests of recreational anglers. A memorial trophy in the name of Al Reinfelder will go to the angler landing the largest striped bass overall.

Hopefully, the elimination of cash prizes is a small step towards steering recreational angling back on the right track. In an upcoming editorial, I will go into greater depth in explaining why it might be a good idea for recreational anglers to put the "sport" back into "sport fishing" and re-evaluate just where it is we are headed. For the time being, it's sufficient to say that maybe we should look into cleaning up our own act as the struggle to protect our interests as recreational anglers intensifies.

Eligible species for this year's contest and their minimum weights are listed below:

SPECIES	LBS.	SPECIES	LBS.
Flounder	2	Bluefin Tuna	200
Blackfish	5	Mako Shark	200
Cod	30	White Marlin	65
Fluke	5	Swordfish	100
Striped Bass	30	Brown Trout	3
Bluefish	15	Brook Trout	2
Weakfish	10	Rainbow Trout	2
Pollack	20	Largemouth Bass	4

Fred P. Golofaro

Start lifting more fish and less rod. Fenwick Fenglass™ Pacificstiks™.

Fenwick recently introduced a new 12-rod series called Pacificstiks, offering universal actions in a unique new design. The response to these rods has been tremendous. From the Atlantic to the Pacific to the Gulf Coast, fishermen everywhere are enjoying Pacificstiks. Although originally designed for the West Coast fisherman, the performance and actions of these rods have quickly made them a favorite of all saltwater fishermen.

UP TO 60% LIGHTER

The use of Fenglass — a special Fenwick material — has enabled us to reduce the weight of our saltwater rods. Pacificstiks are as much as 60% lighter than rods from other manufacturers. Your energy goes into lifting fish, not lifting the rod.

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Fenglass itself is much stronger than traditional fiberglass material. Even with their exceptionally light weight, Fenwick's Pacificstiks are the most powerful rods made today. For sheer brute strength, no other rods can outperform them.

Pictured at left: Five of the twelve Fenglass Pacificstiks . . . both casting and spinning models with a power and an action for every saltwater fisherman's needs.

SPECIAL SALTWATER ACTIONS

At Fenwick, we're aware of the special versatility needed by top saltwater fishermen. That's why we've included 8 different casting and 4 different spinning models in the series. Each Pacificstik features rich brown hand-wraps, Fenwick Hand Hugger™ grips, and carballoy tip top.

Whether you're fly-lining pinhead anchovies to bass or halibut, or hooking up super-sized tuna, yellowtail, tarpon or bluefish, Fenwick has the right rod for you.

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CLUB NEWS

SURFSIDE III TUNA CLUB SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Surfside III Tuna Club is geared up for the 1981 season with a new slate of officers at the helm. Those recently elected to terms include: President: Woody Bradley; Vice Pres.: Otto Runge; Treasurer: Fred Walter; Cor. Sec'y.: Don Peterson; Record. Sec'y.: Joe Ferrarri and Sergeant-at-Arms: Frank Sterlacci.

The Club is also actively seeking new members. Anyone interested is welcome to attend one of their weekly meetings which are held each Thursday night, 8PM, at the Surfside III Lounge located at the foot of Wellwood Avenue in Lindenhurst.

NEW ANGLERS FISHING CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The New Anglers Fishing Club installed the following officers for 1981:

Hal Eisenbaum, President
Steve Panico, Vice President
Ken Greenstein, Treasurer
Joe Ruggerio, Secretary
Jim Stanis, Sgt. at Arms.

Membership is now open to anyone interested in joining a fishing club that fishes both inshore and offshore. The club is located in East Rockaway and meets the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested, call President, Hal Eisenbaum after 6PM, at (516) 678-4352.

SURF AND SEA ANGLERS HOLD ELECTIONS & DINNER DANCE

The Surf and Sea Anglers, a Shirley-based surf and boatmen's fishing club, recently held elections of officers. Elected to the Board of Directors were:

President: Tom Montalbano
Vice Pres.: Rick Toore
Secretary: Bill Davis
Treasurer: Kevin Murphy
Tournament Com.: Bob Bruno
Purchasing Agent: Bob Pastore
Social Dir.: Tom Stines
Press Agent: Lorry Mangan

At a gala dinner dance, held at the Bonwitt Inn, awards were presented to the following fishermen for their prize catches:

SURF:
Bluefish: Ozzie Van Helmond
Striped Bass: Ozzie Van Helmond
Weakfish: Bill Van Helmond

INSHORE:
Bluefish, weakfish, fluke: Rick Torre
Blackfish: Mrs. Lorry Mangan
Flounder: Bill Van Helmond
Sea Bass: Bill Davis

OFFSHORE:
Green bonito: Mrs. Lorry Mangan
Albacore: Bill Davis
Skipjack tuna: Steve Antonoff
Bluefin tuna: Bill Davis
White Shark: Bill Davis
Mako Shark: Dan Narbut
Hammerhead Shark: Bob Pastore
Blue Shark: Tony Troiano
Codfish: Bill Davis

CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR:
Inshore: Rick Torre
Offshore: Tom Montalbano

FISHERMAN OF THE YEAR:
Inshore: Rick Torre
Offshore: Bill Davis

For further information regarding the Surf and Sea Anglers, call President Tom Montalbano at 281-0235.

N.Y. SURF FISHING CONTEST INVITES NEW ENTRIES

In its second year, the New York Surf Fishing Contest is accepting applications from surf fishing **CLUBS** or **CLUBS** with significant interest in surf fishing for 1981.

If your club is interested or might be interested in participating, call the Contest Officer, Fred Schwab at (516) 735-5940. Contest begins April 1, 1981; so if you're interested, please hurry.

5TH ANNUAL L.I. INTERCLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS SPONSORED BY ATLANTIS ANGLERS OF FREEPORT

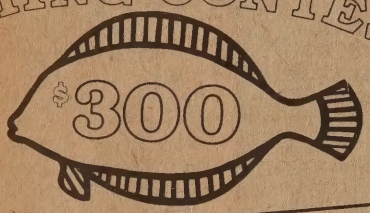
This tournament is designed for clubs only. The fishing boundaries run from west of Debs Inlet to east of Fire Island Inlet, with weigh-in stations nearby. The entry fee is $40 per club, per tournament.

To equalize the many different sizes of the various clubs, **no more than** 40 members per club can fish the tournaments. The huge club team trophy is given out to the club champions of each event. The winning clubs get to keep this trophy until next year's contest. If they win the event three (3) years in a row, they keep it permanently (there are three separate trophies, one for each event). There are also many numerous individual tackle prizes given out to the anglers. A club can participate in any one or all three events. The flounder event is scheduled for May 1 and 2; weakfish, May 30 and 31; and fluke, July 11 and 12.

The Atlantis Anglers feel that in days of growing inflation and rocketing prices, that their tournament is a real bargain. Your entire club (up to 40 members) can fish for what amounts to $1 per angler. Members can fish in competition against other clubs and not spend hundreds of dollars in fuel and expenses. It also gives your club the chance of being the Long Island Interclub Champion.

For further information, contact without delay: Mark Kaufman, (516) 798-3291, or Fuzzy Wengler, (516) 546-0965.

FLOUNDER FISHING CONTEST



No Entry Fee Required

Contest Ends May 24

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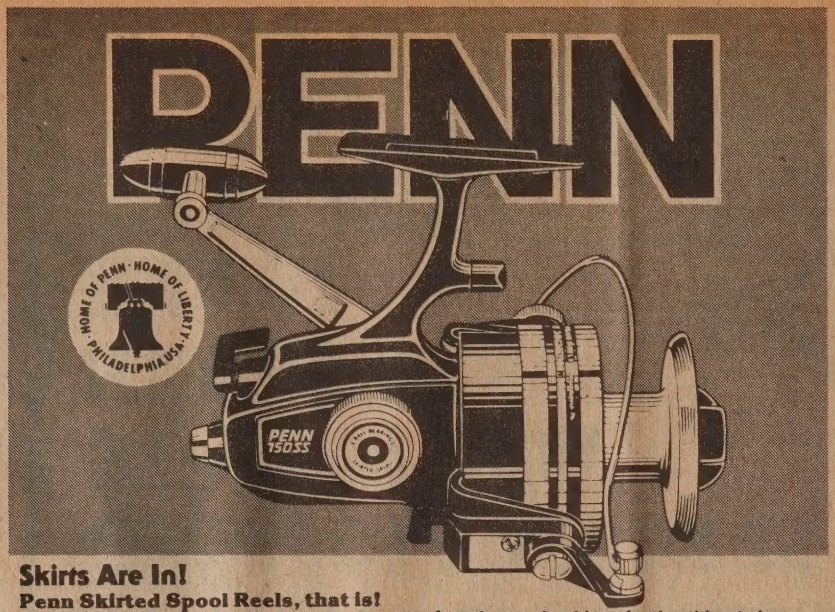

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Penn Skirted Spool Reels, that is! Four Great Models. Whether for striper, bass, trout or billfish, Penn has a skirted beauty to take your favorite sportfish to task. To work those lures in fast, Models 750SS (shown) & 650SS feature fast 4.6 to 1 and 4.8 to 1 gear ratios respectively while their lighter cousins, Models 550SS and 450SS* sport super fast 5.1 to 1 retrieves. Large capacity, tangle-free gold anodized spool with line capacity chart holds more line so you get maximum distance in every cast. Features a stainless steel spool shaft supported by three bronze bushings for the ultimate in strength and three ball bearings for super smooth performance...a Penn exclusive. Right or left hand option.

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To help defray postage and handling, send 50¢ for full color 1981 Penn Catalog or pick up your FREE copy at your local tackle dealer. Penn Reels, 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Dept. FG-3 Philadelphia, PA 19132. *Available Spring 1981

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Pass It On...

FREE FISHING FILMS AT GLEN COVE SPORT SHOP

It's "Free Movie Night" at Glen Cove Sport Shop, on Monday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. Shown will be "Rip-Tide," a film on Montauk and New England coast fishing; "Newfoundland Trophy Trips," focusing on salmon and tuna fishing, and finally "The Way of A Trout."

There will be door prizes and films will be a continuous monthly event. Call ahead for seating or bring your own chair. Glen Cove Sports is at 189 Forrest Ave., Glen Cove; (516) Or 6-7120.

BEACH CLEANUP—1981

L.I.B.B.A., along with the Farragut and Nor'West Fishing clubs wishes to alert all fishermen to an upcoming beach cleanup on April 4 and 5 at Robert Moses Park. Volunteers will meet at Parking Field 2 at 9AM. All able-bodied volunteers are invited to join the effort. The organizers of the cleanup want to point out that four-wheels drive vehicles are NOT necessary, but they do suggest that volunteers bring work gloves. For further information, call Mike Parker at (516) 277-5479.

FLOTILLA 18-7 BOATING COURSE

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Shinnecock Flotilla 18-7, will be presenting a 4-lesson New York State Safe Boating Course for boys and girls ages 10-15 at the Southampton Intermediate School, Leland Lane, Southampton, New York beginning April 1st, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The course and materials are free of charge and upon completion, a certificate and license will be issued.

For further information, please contact Joseph Alenski at (516) 728-2366.

NEW CATALOG FROM LEW CHILDRE

Lew Childre's "World of Fishing" 44-page new full color catalog is now available.

Included in the catalog is information on over 500 Speed Team products including Speed Stick rods, Speed Spool casting reels, Lew/Fuji rod building components, airpump aerators, Speed Sticker worm hooks and more.

Photography for the catalog is all full color. Action photos were shot on location in Appalachicola, Fla. and feature members of Lew's Speed Team.

The catalog may be purchased for $1 from Lew Childre and Sons, Inc., Dept. NR, P.O. Box 535, Foley Alabama 36536.

NATIONAL SCENE

Boatman's Conference

by Al Ristori

The first ever Boatman's Conference sponsored by New York Sea Grant will be held on Thursday, April 2 at the Smithtown Sheraton Inn, at Exit 54 on the Long Island Expressway. This conference is aimed at charter and party boat captains, and their crews—or those thinking about getting into the business.

Among the subjects to be discussed at the all-day conference are business management, fuel economy, engine maintenance, Coast Guard inspections, advertising and marketing (including results of the latest NMFS survey, which will help identify markets), and free medical care for captains and crews from the Public Health Service. In addition, there will be between thirty and fifty product exhibitors. Registration and coffee starts at 8AM, with the first speaker on tap at 9AM. A $5 fee covers the entire session.

Good attendance is expected for this initial conference, with skippers from neighboring states invited—and large contingents expected from New Jersey and Connecticut. Those attending will be able to find out about the Professional Boatman's Association, which is being formed to act as a trade association for the industry and lobby for its interests. For additional information, contact Chris Smith at N.Y. Sea Grant, 39 Sound Ave., Riverhead, NY 11901; (516) 727-3910).

Your Future in the Sea—1981

The American Littoral Society presents its eleventh annual symposium, YOUR FUTURE IN THE SEA—1981, on Saturday, March 28, at the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79th St., New York City. The afternoon session runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and features "Sea Creatures," a classic underwater film by Robin Lehman; "The Art of Being Underwater," with Doug Faulkner; "Coastal Wetlands: The Muck, The Ooze, The Value," presented by Richard Macomber, Vice President of the Society of Wetland Scientists; Ruth Turner's film "Creatures of the Deep"; "Marine Turtles: Do They Have a Future?," a presentation of David Ehrenfield's work with the green turtle in Costa Rica; and famous shark expert Jack Casey with "Life Histories of Atlantic Sharks." The last program alone should make the $4 admission charge well worthwhile for area anglers.

The evening session costs $5 and runs from 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Featured at night are Irving Johnson with a film study of sailing ships near the turn of the century, "Around the Cape of Good Hope"; Doug Faulkner with "Palau—From the Air and Underwater"; Dr. Eugenie Clark with "Undersea: Japan, the Indian Ocean, The Red Sea" (mostly about sharks); and Richard Ellis with "Adventures of a Whale Painter." The James Dugan Award for services to the marine sciences will also be presented at this time. Those wishing to attend both sessions can purchase a combined ticket for $8. For information, call (201) 291-0055. Unsold tickets will be available at the door of the Museum's Auditorium starting at noon, March 28, and they will also cover admission to the Museum.

The American Littoral Society is a broad based organization dedicated to the study and protection of the coastal environment. Society members are primarily scuba divers and sport fishermen, but also include commercial fishermen, beachcombers, bird watchers, and professional people with an interest in the sea. Annual dues are $15 ($10 for students), in return for which you receive a quarterly journal, UNDERWATER NATURALIST; a newsletter, COASTAL REPORTER; and invitations to many field trips, both local and to such exotic locations as Bermuda, San Salvador, and Bonaire.

Of special interest to anglers is the ALS volunteer tag and release program which provides a great deal of information to scientists. Over 100,000 fish have been tagged and up to 500 returns a year are received. I've cooperated in this program over the years and have fifteen returns to date—mostly striped bass, plus fluke and a school tuna. However, the most unusual I've been involved with was just recently reported to Joel Arrington, outdoor editor for the State of North Carolina. Joel and I were tagging amberjack on the 12-Mile Wreck off Carolina Beach in 1974 with ALS tags I had brought down with me. After 6½ years, one of those Carolina amberjack was recaptured off Islamorada in the Florida Keys—a very long "time out" for a tagged fish The amberjack had grown from about twenty pounds into the forty pound class.

Among the field trips of interest to fishermen this year is the August 8 Shark Tag-and-Release Trip out of Manasquan Inlet. Anglers will fish Manasquan Ridge three to a boat on a small, fast boat for just $60 per man. On November 7-8, a sport fishing conference will be held at the Society's headquarters at Sandy Hook. Those joining the Society now will get an extra bonus: a copy of the Society's 8th Special Publication, "Fish Stories." I highly recommend this organization, and a membership for any young reader with a strong interest in the sea would make an excellent gift!

More Good Reading

Anyone interested in fly fishing, or anyone who thinks he might want to give that sport a try, should latch onto the latest Scientific Anglers Fly Fishing Handbook. This $3 annual, published by Steve Ferber's Aqua-Field Publications, has lots of good information about fly fishing—both in fresh water and salt. Those who'd like to get into the saltwater aspect should read Pete McLain's fine piece "Saltwater Fly Fishing Made Easy," which is directed at the beginner. Ted Williams (the author, not the ball player) has a finely crafted article entitled "Shallow Water Striped Bass"; Bob Sterns puts out some valuable info on the effect of water temperatures on the various species found on the Florida flats, and McKain shows how to tie a squid fly. These are just a few of the eighteen articles incorporated in this fourth annual edition, crammed with beautiful color shots. If you can't find it on the newsstands, send $3 to Scientific Anglers/3M, Dept. A-4, P.O. Box 33984, St. Paul, Minn. 55133.

For those of you interested in "doing it yourself," there's some interesting reading in the 1981 edition of Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters catalog. Boyd Pfeiffer is well known as the author of TACKLE CRAFT, the only complete book on all types of tackle building. He also has a retail operation in Monkton, Maryland and a rapidly expanding mail order business devoted exclusively to tackle building items. The 2,800 items in the catalog include special tools developed for rod building by Pfeiffer and Gregory Clem, general manager of Tackle Crafters. These tools include a rod wrapper, rod finish curing device, burnishers, rod mitre boxes for

(Continued on page 46.)

FISH TALK

IMPORTANT NEWS

by William A. Muller

JUST ARRIVED! The mail just came and two of the letters hit a nerve. Thanks to the ever-vigilant efforts of a couple of dedicated sport fishermen who are always eager to pass along important information, we have several items to tell you about.

THANKS TO FRED SCHWAB. Fred sent us a copy of a recent issue of Nassau County Commerce and Industry News with the following note. "Thought you'd be interested in this...perhaps there won't be a damned thing left in the ocean." Fred wanted us to see an article called MODERN PROCESSING OF UNDER-UTILIZED FISH SPECIES A REALITY. You will recall that, beginning with an editorial a few months back, we have been cautioning about the growth of our domestic commercial fishing industry. Now, there are legitimate areas where domestic commercial fishing can use a boost, and thus benefit from the protective 200-Mile Limit law. However, expansion and growth must stop at the point where that increased commercial activity interferes with the continued thriving of fish species and the economically important recreational fishing industry. We thus take exception to two growing trends. One is the assault on all species at wintering, spawning, and nursery grounds as well as on swim-ways; and the second is the growth of inshore commercial fishing that directly encroaches on the success of recreational fishing. We have been amazed at how State, Federal, and local government seems to be intent on promoting these potentially damaging commercial activities. It is as if government has absolutely no idea that recreational fishing in certain areas of the country is worth ten to a thousand times the value of commercial fishing to the economy. We have been busy educating them, yet they still seem to be insensitive to the data in many cases. We have warned of the plans to construct large fish processing plants that plan to take all fish and make protein blocks from the fish for export. The term under-utilized species is a polite way of saying that draggers will take everything. If this heavy and indiscriminate harvest is allowed to occur inshore, productive and irreplaceable habitats may be destroyed, the food chain may be so drastically altered that normal seasonal migration may be changed, and there will be an even greater increase in inshore commercial fishing.

NASSAU COUNTY BOASTING!? The article seems to be boasting that the facility is now operational in Island Park. According to the short story, the plant will process squid, whiting, butterfish, and porgy for export to Europe and the Far East. The article refers to squid, whiting, butterfish, and porgy as "under-utilized." Excuse me, maybe I'm very naive, but I see nothing under-utilized about whiting, porgy, butterfish, and squid. In fact, I recall that in the early 1970s and, in one case, the 1960s there was great concern for all of the species mentioned and one of the goals of the 200-Mile Limit law was to establish quotas and management plans that would enable these species to recover. Are protein blocks the next step? If so, then we can add spearing, sand eels, killies, rays, skates, and who knows what else to the list! The plant will gross about one million says the article. Hey, Nassau County, wake up! The County is putting itself in the position of saying that one million dollars is better than perhaps ten million that might be lost if Long Island's coastal waters are over-harvested and recreational fishing suffers. We must let our lawmakers know how we feel about a very disproportionate interest. A handful of commercial fishermen have more influence than 2.5 million recreational fishermen on Long Island because each person doesn't take the time to tell every elected official about the facts and how you plan to vote in the next election if they don't stop siding with commercial interests and get onto the side that has the force of numbers. We're told that John L. Fitzgerald is the man to contact on this story. His address is the Department of Commerce and Industry, Old County Court House, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, N.Y. 11501. I think that we need to remind Mr. Fitzgerald that recreational fishing is COMMERCE too!

AND FROM BOB RANCE OF SAVE OUR STRIPERS. Bob Rance is another highly dedicated fisherman and conservationist. He sent a copy of an article that appeared in the February 1, 1981 issue of the San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle. The title of the article is, STATE POLITICS PLAYS HAVOC WITH STRIPED BASS. Not too long ago, we commented in our column that we assumed things were going well for the bass on the West Coast because we hadn't heard too much from the Coast in several years. Of course, we knew about the problem created from pumping water out of the San Francisco Delta area into the water-starved southwest. However, we were led to believe that plans were under way to rectify that situation. The article sent by Bob sheds doubt on the validity of that notion.

SINCE 1967! The California Aqueduct pumps started sending water into the Southwest in 1967 and since then about eighty million juvenile striped bass and an unknown amount of eggs have been taken from the Delta and sent inland. Since 1970 the adult population of bass on the West Coast has been reduced from 4.5 million to about a million according to the report. A few years ago plans were made to build a bypass system that would save about thirty to forty percent of these young fish and for the opening of the State's first striped bass hatchery. However, the director of California's Fish and Game Department, E. Charles Fullerton says that the government has been dragging its feet on these measures and apparently aren't aware that if things don't improve within five years, according to Fullerton "...we've had it." Actually, the bass will have had it. The hatchery will produce fingerling striped bass for release. Perhaps 100,000 this year and up to 300,000 in future years. However, even though the number looks large, it is only a small number compared to the potential size of successful natural spawns. It is interesting, however, that more and more, authorities are looking to hatchery fish as the solution to the decline of striped bass.

ENDANGERED SPECIES. Also interesting is the reference, in the article, to the condition of East Coast striped bass. "On the East Coast, where the striped bass may shortly become an endangered species..." Of course bass are very vulnerable, since upland estuaries are under attack from so many quarters and it may be that we have finally exceeded the bass' ability to rebound from man-made problems. If so, we'll need those hatchery fish desperately. The largest striped bass hatchery is in Bonnea, South Carolina and that plant has the ability to produce sixty million striped bass each year. At the present time, these fish are sold to twenty-five

(Continued on page 46.)

SPRING FLATTIES

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING FLOUNDERS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY OR MID-MARCH SIGNALS THE START OF ANOTHER FISHING SEASON WITH THE OPENING OF BAIT & TACKLE STORES, SKIFF STATIONS AND PARTY BOAT SAILINGS. WINTER AND OIL BILLS ARE OVER.

FLOUNDERS OBJECT VIGOROUSLY TO BEING HOOKED - NOT A SMASHING STRIKE OR A DRAMATIC BATTLE, BUT THEY DART FOR SHORT DISTANCES AND PROVIDE LIVELY ACTION ON LIGHT TACKLE.

STIRRING UP THE BOTTOM WITH *"FLOUNDER POUNDERS"* WORKS LIKE CHUM BY DISLODGING TINY SHELLFISH AND OTHER TIDBITS WHICH ATTRACT THESE FISH. FISHING IN THE VICINITY OF A CLAM DIGGER OR AN OYSTER DREDGE CAN ALSO BE PRODUCTIVE.

BAITED HOOKS SHOULD BE RIGHT ON THE BOTTOM AND INSPECTED REGULARLY. CRABS AND OTHER HUNGRY MARINE LIFE WILL BE AROUND TO STEAL THE BAIT MEANT FOR FISH.

BLOODWORMS, SANDWORMS, CLAMS AND MUSSELS ARE THE MOST WIDELY USED BAITS - IN LITTLE PIECES FOR LITTLE MOUTHS. CHUMMING WITH CRUSHED MUSSELS OR CLAMS HELPS BRING NEARBY FLATTIES TO YOUR HOOKS.

RECREATIONAL FLOUNDER

CATCHES HAVE FLUCTUATED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS. BASED ON VARIOUS SURVEYS, THE CATCH BY ONE MILLION ANGLERS HAS BEEN: 1965... 28.8 MILLION, 1970... 37.6 MILLION, 1974... 18.9 MILLION.

SINKER BOUNCING

THE TRUTH ABOUT BAIT

by Matt Ahern

I have no way of knowing your reaction to the title of this article, for certainly to many fishermen, bait is bait—just as a hook is a hook. Period. If the bait in use is fresh and considered a fish-producer, many sinker bouncers feel this is the only requirement necessary to put fish in their buckets. Which is true enough. Up to a point.

However, if I had a dollar for every flounder I've caught on "stale" worm, or a buck for every cod I've caught on musty skimmer, I think I could easily afford that neat Station Wagon I've had my eye on for so long now...and without so much as batting that eye. And that, too, is certainly true enough.

We fellows who have been bottom fishing for a few years know there are days when the freshest bait will fail to put a dent in the fish population. And there have been times when days-old stuff drove the fish wild. I have found that when the action is hot, when everyone is bailing the fish, fresh bait is readily accepted.

But on those days when the fishing is slow, often it is only the "stale" stuff which will produce. This generally holds true with all bottom feeders with the exception of blackfish and kingfish. There have even been times when I've caught fluke with commercially-packaged spearing so mushy I had difficulty keeping it on the hook, while my companions in the skiff with me fared poorly indeed with fresh killies, squid, fish strips, etc. Not too often; but it has happened.

I have just taken time out from writing this article in order to search through my older record books and come up with those events which first called my attention to this odd-ball behavior on the part of many fish. It has taken some doing for my books are many and my notes indeed voluminous. But I did succeed—and discovered those initial events go back a long way in time: April 2, 1933.

According to those records, I fished Schaeffer's Creek in Island Park that particular day. With me were my buddy Artie Leidecker (with whom I still fish) and someone called "Bill." Who Bill actually was I cannot for the life of me remember. But I dimly recall a short, rotund fisherman who shared the skiff with us that day.

I called Artie. Not only couldn't he remember the fisherman, he couldn't even remember the day. Just before he hung up, he cheerfully remarked that I had to be several kinds of damned fool to think anyone could remember precisely that far back. Which, of course, is a plus for record-keeping. But right now I wish I knew more about our mystery fisherman, for it was he who first showed us the flounder catching ability of stale bait. But strictly by accident, not design.

"Soft" bait will often put fish in the bucket when all else fails.

During those long-gone days, Artie and I did much flounder (and fluke) fishing in Schaeffer's Creek. We divided our activity between shore and boat fishing, with the edge favoring dunking bait from a rowboat. We always rented our boat from Willie Schaeffer who, as I recall, ran the only boat livery on the creek.

Now 1933 was the height of the Depression and not only was money tight, I firmly believe there were

times it was non-existent for the average fisherman. Therefore, because of this, goods and services were cheap. Fifty cents rented a rowboat on weekdays and seventy-five cents on weekends. However, if all you honestly had was a quarter, the chances were good it would be accepted. Better to garner that much-needed quarter than leave a boat tied up at the float where it wouldn't earn so much as a thin dime.

Outboard engines were few and far between and those often cantankerous beasts at best and fairly certain to strand a guy at the worst time (rain, strong winds, etc.). They might carry a fisherman out to the grounds if he were lucky, but it was almost a sure bet he could expect to row back. So, smart fishermen shunned outboards and became quite proficient at handling oars.

I don't know where or how Willie Schaeffer got worm bait for his customers, but I'm quite sure he spent many a cold morning on the mud flats. At most fishing stations those days, the going price for a dozen sand or blood worms varied from twenty-five to thirty-five cents. But Willie never sold us his worms by the dozen.

What happened was that after we placed our gear in the rented rowboat, we'd return to the shack and ask Willie for "fifteen cents worth of bloodworms." And for that fifteen cents (are you ready for this?), we got enough worms to last two—or three—fishermen for at least several hours of good solid fishing.

Actually, three action-packed hours were all anyone needed when spring flounder fishing during those early days of my youth. Most times, anyway. I say this because we didn't always "kill" the fish; though many times we did. And the chances were good that no matter how fine the fishing, we would have worms left over—which we always returned to Willie for resale.

I have gone into much detail while writing this, I know, and I hope I haven't bored you while doing so. But my reason for this is to enable those sinker bouncers who did not fish through that period to get the general rundown on what it was like to dunk bait for flounder 'way back then.

Well, anyway, to get back to that day.

Artie and I always used two sets of oars. Not that rowing was tiresome for one fisherman, but doing so enabled us to get to our chosen spot quicker, which, of course, gave us more time to fish. Because this was the beginning of April, we had one particular spot we always fished at that time. This was located at the mouth of the creek, close by Reynold's Channel proper. The surrounding water ran about eighteen to twenty feet in depth, but this spot had at least an additional ten. And this was where the flounder congregated. (And large tide-running weakfish in October.)

We anchored our rowboat and began to fish. Naturally, we used the liveliest bloodworms in the bait can, placing the dead and dying to one side of the rowboat seat. Some I recall as being pretty ripe, and these we discarded overside.

This, however, was one of those "off" days all fishermen suffer even in the best of times. I remember the fish we caught were small, few and far between, and averaged about three to the pound. No keepers. I guess we fished an hour or better with the same sad results. And then Bill, our mystery guest, lifted a good two pounder over the side. And he continued to reel in good-sized fish, though none as large as that first one. Down, up. Down, up. And Artie and I continued to catch midgets.

During the unhooking of one good-sized flounder, Bill said, "I don't see why you guys ain't using this old bait. That's the only thing catching 'em." It was that simple. And with that observation went my long-held thoughts on flounder fishing. Until then, I thought I knew it all...from A to Izzard.

Artie and I had achieved our poor results only because we used the freshest and liveliest worms, but yet we didn't have brains enough to ask ourselves why this made a difference. And we failed to do what every sharp bottom fisherman has long ago learned to do: experiment.

So, Bill, whoever you were, and wherever you are today, I thank you from the bottom of my flounder-fishing heart. You've enabled me to bucket thousands of additional flounder over the years. I may have eventually stumbled on this soft-bait idea on my own (a bit of sour grapes there), but you gave me a good head start.

But flounder aren't the only fish that look askance at fresh bait whenever the mood strikes them. Cod can sometimes drive a fisherman up the wall.

I remember some years back when we were doing a lot of codfishing on the Cholera Bank. We'd put in a slow week. The cod were there, for bites were common, and for proof an occasional fish would come to gaff. However, most cod would hold on to the bait and then swim off the instant the fisherman attempted to set the hook. It was most exasperating.

One particular morning on the way to Cholera, I was opening skimmer and discussed this finicky cod attitude with a passenger. "No problem," he said. "Use yesterday's skimmer—even the day before—if you have any. Those fish want soft bait. They act like that up in Maine sometimes."

And that's all we had to do. Problem solved.

So, the next time your fish are giving you a hard time, pay attention to the bait. Just because it's fresh doesn't necessarily mean the fish will jump with joy.

And that's the truth.

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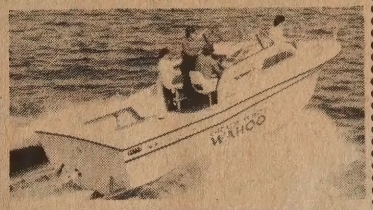

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SURF FISHING

Confessions Of A Novice

Part Two — *by William A. Muller*

In last week's column, I explained how John Fritz and only John Fritz suckered me into baitfishing. In the early times, my experiences were dreadfully uninspiring, but John and circumstances conspired to keep me in there. However, in spite of all the strange things that I have experienced and the early abundant fishless outings, I finally reached the point where I have graduated from a green apple to an accomplished novice. That means a lot to me, too, because the first and last plateaus are the hardest while the middle ones come regularly. Therefore, I thought it was fitting to share all of this with the rest of you who dabble or yearn to be great baitfishermen in the surf. Some of the information that I'm throwing out can probably be debated by real baitfishing experts, but I figure that if I can tell you where I am now with regards to this technique, then maybe both of us can rush across a few of those middle plateaus.

We went through six lessons last week. This week we'll push through more of them now that all the anecdotal stuff is out of the way.

Lesson Seven: Use tall sand spikes. The taller the spikes, the better as long as you can still reach up to take the rod down. Tall spikes have a number of obvious advantages such as getting the line above the waves, current, and weeds in the pounding south shore surf, but even in the Sound there can be advantages. Although the Sound is often calm, a sneaky wind can get you and there are waves in the Sound just like any place else. There also can be driftwood, plastic and other debris near the shore in the Sound and the tall rod keeps the line out of this zone.

Lesson Eight: Keep your hooks sharp. Now, I know I sound like a fanatic and I am about sharp hooks, and you may say, well that's not special to baitfishing, it applies to all fishing—and you'd be right. However, there is something special about using sharp hooks in baitfishing that usually doesn't apply to artificials. While your bait rests out beyond the breakers on the bottom, the wave activity and surge move your bait around. As it tumbles, the point of the hook rolls on the sand—back and forth, forth and back! It gets dull. Every time you reel in to check your bait or re-bait, you drag the hook point through the sand. It gets dull! Therefore, I found that if I carry a small jeweler's file with me I can conveniently spruce up that point regularly.

Lesson Nine: LET THEM EAT! I've been amazed at the difference between the way a fish approaches a dead or motionless piece of bait and a swimming artificial. Needless to say, the artificial is wiggling and moving ahead and thus it might escape. The game fish can sense this and must react quickly and forcefully if it wants to eat. A piece of bait is a different story. Fish probably sniff out a cast bait and track it down to its source. Once there, it doesn't run away and thus they have abundant time to smell it, look it over, and push it around. It continues not to run away. So, I assume that these fish take their time, and are casual about how they consume the bait. I have heard of several situations where a fisherman was just beginning to reel the bait in when they felt a savage strike. This we can also understand since a game fish following the smell of a cast bait to its source and seeing it suddenly "jump" off the bottom might react to that bait in the same way that they react to artificials. The point of all this is that I have come to the conclusion that it is important to give the fish plenty of time to swallow the bait. Of course, this is a major disadvantage for those fishermen who prefer to release their fish, as I do; but it seems to be very necessary to take a major portion of the fish that pick up your bait. I nonetheless feel obliged, however, to relate to you what several very good baitfishermen told me years ago. They maintained that indeed, you must hold the rod and when bass are the target species, you need to react instantly to any strike. They insist that this approach is necessary when bunker is used for bait; but they also hedge on strict adherence to this technique when eels are the bait used. These bait sharpies say that a big bass will suck in a bunker chunk that's resting on the bottom and when they feel any resistance or sense the hook they will spit it out immediately. Therefore, they hit hard and fast. It works for them, but I have my doubts. Now, I need to remind you that these are the confessions of a novice surf baitfisherman and, therefore, my opinion is jaded and most likely will be altered by further experience.

Lesson Ten: CHECK YOUR WIRE CRIMPS BEFORE USING! I remember several years ago when I first began to dabble with bait in the suds, that I tried bunker for big blues. The blues that year were not too happy about plugs and many folks were doing a job with bunker on both shores. I tried my hand at it. I crimped my wire leaders and made ready my hooks and other gear. This would be a night! Many hours passed without any action, but eventually a fish picked up my bait and began to slowly move away. I let that fish run, too; and when, in my mind, the fish had swallowed the bait, I struck back hard. Immediately the fish began to run for another Continent and I stood there, back arched against the forward pull of the fish. I was quite proud of myself actually. It was a good fish. Then, without warning the crimp let go, the wire loop opened, and my prize was free to fight another day! Since that experience, I test my leaders **before** putting them into battle. An easy way to do this is with two long nails. One nail is driven three-quarters of the way into a beam and the other you hold in your hand. Actually, a stout wire loop or anything that will take the strain of the test is good enough for you to hold. However, a nail seems best for the beam. When the leader has been made, put the hook around the nail. Incidentally, the nail should be driven in at an angle so that you can have a hold for the hook. Put the other nail or whatever through the eye of the swivel at the other end. Now pull. Pull with all the strength you can manage. If the leader doesn't break then, it most likely never will. In addition, don't over-crimp. Crimp twice: once on one end and again at the other. Repeated crimping weakens both the crimp and the leader material. Mono leaders, preferred when there are no blues around, can also be crimped although many people like to tie on hooks and swivels. The one problem with this is that heavy mono is tough to tie and the knots are often formed improperly. Thus, the knots are weak and weak knots could mean a big fish will be lost. Thus, some fishermen opt for the use of special soft crimps that are equally effective on wire and mono.

Lesson Eleven: It has been my limited experience (agreed) that fish caught on bait do not fight nearly as hard, with exceptions, as fish taken on artificials. I feel safe with this one, so I'll push it. I believe there are

several reasons why this is so. First, let's dismiss the obvious situation where a fish is gut hooked. Gut hooked fish are no match for a jaw-hooked fish. However, a significant number of bait-caught fish will be hooked somewhere in the jaw, so why don't they fight as well? I believe there are two reasons. The first reason involves the very manner in which the fish are feeding. A lazy fish that casually picks up a bait that isn't running away, may be taken by surprise when it pulls back. The entire school of fish, in fact, may not be "geared" to aggressive feeding. Second, there is the matter of that sinker that is dangling in front of the fish. I don't mean to say that a three, four, or five ounce sinker can overpower a teen blue or a cow type bass. However, I believe that the sinker may disorient the fish since the resistance is coming from two directions: towards the beach and down into the sand. There is a tendency for the fish to allow its nose to be directed towards the sand. Perhaps the fish senses that this is better than being dragged towards the beach? Finally the time comes when the fish is about to be directed across the surf line and onto the sand. Often it is now that these fish will put up their biggest battle and it may be that this is so because only at that point does the full potential danger and/or irregularity of the situation "dawn" on the fish.

Lesson Twelve: Place reflective tape near the tiptop of your rod. Although a lot of good baitfishing may happen in the day, the bulk of it will still be at night—especially during the summer doldrums. Since many of your pick-ups will be light, it is essential that you have a way to judge the difference between a very little nibble and the bouncing tip that results from wave action. Many regulars solve this problem with a little reflective type tape that's wound around the rod near the tiptop, although I also know of little bells, rags, and continuous light beams used. Clearly, a lantern can offer the easiest way out, but you may not always have the wisdom to bring it. Things happen! After all, it is another piece of gear that needs carrying and unless you have good reason to know that you'll need it, it may stay home. If you can't go directly to a spot by car or buggy, the extra gear may be more of a burden than the darkness. Therefore, the reflective tape seems to offer a number of advantages. Even on dark nights without a light on it, you can usually see when the tip bounces as long as you aren't too far away.

Lesson Thirteen: Don't look up too long! Why? Easy; you'll develop one hell of a stiff neck. I did just that last September and had trouble fishing for about one week after.

Lesson Fourteen: That brings us to this lesson. It seems to follow number thirteen, but isn't the same. Find a good position from which to watch your rod or rods. In the day, it's easy. All you need do is back up and you'll be able to see the rods without looking up. That's great for the day. At night, ten feet means invisibility!! I have found that if I stand about three to five feet off to the side of the rod—that is, on the line with the rod(s) parallel to the surf line, and then look towards the rods at an angle, I can see the rod tips out of the corner of my eye without straining my neck. My wife has a great solution. She lays down on the beach and looks up at the tip of her rod. Of course, there is a danger here if you fall asleep. John Fritz sometimes watches his rod at night from a beach chair. That works, too; but again, you can fall asleep.

Lesson Fifteen: Of course, there are many more lessons, but as I told you, I'm a novice at this. As I discover more of these great revelations I'll share them with you; I promise. I know that you're dying to hear about them. Therefore, I close this two-part series on baitfishing with the last lesson—for now! It is, don't go baitfishing. After all this time and effort, I've finally gotten to the point where I can take fish regularly on bait. However, I have not learned to like it any more than I did years ago—and that was very, very little. Now you bait fishermen out there don't throw tomatoes. It just isn't for me, although it may be fine for you. It is ultimately a boring way to fish, an uninvolved way to fish, and I'd rather not. Still, there are those times when the fish will not cooperate for weeks on end and if one wants to take fish, it must be with bait. Therefore, rather than relish baitfishing, I tolerate it and it tolerates me. It's a cold war, but it works out!

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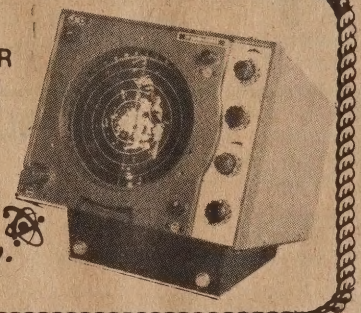

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"Opening Day" Escape

by Fred Golofaro

There is something about the first day of April which causes otherwise sane anglers to do things that lead family and friends to seriously question their mental stability.

The need to draw one's favorite "beat" on one of the state or county managed park rivers, for example, is reason enough for some trout addicts to justify sitting on line in a parked car for upwards of ten to twelve hours. On most of the Island's ponds and streams, "opening day" to scores of anglers means being hip-deep in numbing, cold water by midnight as they begin the season with an almost ritualistic fervor. Snow, rain, ice-clogged guides, and non-functioning fingers are some of the more predictable evils that are tolerated by these devout anglers. And, lest we forget, no true trout fisherman would dare let any domestic responsibilitites such as work, school or family, interfere with the partaking of this ceremonial event.

Despite the availability of year-round fishing in our tidal rivers, most anglers still retain the need to at least wet a line on April Fool's Day. Hence, crowds continue to remain the rule rather than the exception on most local trout waters. Yes, there is something to be said for the camaraderie of sharing with a group of fellow "nuts," a steaming cup of coffee or the warmth of a roaring fire. Indeed, some of my fondest childhood memories include the many "opening day" excursions made to Bubbles Falls on the Connetquot where I, along with eight or ten other

LONG ISLAND TROUT FISHING REGULATIONS

WATER	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Ponds	4/1 - 9/30	None for brook trout 9 in. for browns and rainbows	Statewide
*Carmans River north of dam on Rt. 27	4/1 - 9/30	None for brook trout. 9 in for browns and rainbows	Statewide
Freshwater streams	4/1 - 11/30	None	Statewide
Tidal Streams	All Year	9 in. - all trout	Statewide
Connetquot and Nissequogue River State Parks	4/1 - 12/31	9 in. - all trout	3

*The portion of Carmans River located within South Haven Park has special county fishing regulations. Inquire at Park Permit Office or call (516) 286-1040.

The Statewide minimum length for rainbow and brown trout is 9 inches. There is no size limit for brook trout.

The Statewide daily limit is 5 brook, brown or rainbow trout in combination, plus 5 more brookies.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
1981 LONG ISLAND TROUT STOCKING LIST

STREAMS

NAME OF STREAM	LOCATION AND SECTION STOCKED	APPROXIMATE DATES BY APR. 1	BY MAY 1
Carlls River (Belmont Brook)	Between Argyle Lake in Babylon & Southards Pond in No. Babylon	400 BT	400 BT
" "	No. Babylon, between Southards Pond & Belmont Lake State Park	400 ST	400 ST
" "	No. Babylon, between Southards Pond & Phelps (Elda Lake)	200 ST	200 ST
Carmans River	Yaphank, between Upper Lake & Lower Lake	300 RT	300 RT
" "	Yaphank, above Upper Lake	100 RT	
" "	Southaven Suffolk Cty. Park, Special Fishing Regulations, Fee: Call (516) 286-1040 for information.	700 RT	700 RT
Champlains Creek	Islip from Brookwood Hall Pond (Knapp Lake) upstream 1 mile	200 ST	
Nissequogue River	Smithtown, Jericho Tpke. north 1.6 miles.	1700 RT	1700 RT
Orowoc Creek	Islip, Moffit Blvd. north to Brook Street	300 ST	
Swan River	Patchogue, from East (Swan) Lake upstream 1.2 miles	300 ST	200 ST

PONDS

NAME OF POND	LOCATION	ACRES	BY APR. 1	BY APR. 7	BY MAY 1
1. Avon Manor Pond	Amityville	3	300 RT		
2. Canaan Lake	Patchogue	25		1000 RT	800 BT
3. East Lake (Swan Lake)	Patchogue	11		500 RT	400 BT
4. Freeport	Freeport	17		800 RT	700 ST
5. Hard's Lake Suff. Cty. Pk. Special Fish Regulations	Southaven	42	1400 RT		2900 RT
6. Kahlers Pond	East Moriches	13	600 RT		
7. Lower Lake	Yaphank	26	600 RT		500 RT
8. Massapequa Reservoir	Massapequa	20		800 ST	800 BT
9. Mill Pond	Oyster Bay	7	300 RT		300 BT
10. Mill Pond	Sayville	6		500 RT	
11. West Lake	Patchogue	20		800 ST	800 BT

KEY: ST — Brook (speckled) Trout • RT — Rainbow Trout • BT — Brown Trout

Big browns such as this 13 lber. from the Nissequogue (left) and this 12 lb. 2 oz. specimen from the Connetquot prove that Long Island does indeed offer some quality trout fishing. Both were taken last season and were among several others which topped the ten pound mark.

hooky-playing schoolmates would set up camp and keep everyone, including any conservation officers or policemen who happened by, well supplied with roasted hot dogs.

Whatever your own reasons may be, there is also a lot to be said for quiet solitude. For escaping from the crowds to be alone amidst nature's sights and sounds. Or perhaps, you prefer the company of a good friend with whom you can share a mutual appreciation for those "special" moments. If such are your feelings, then shoulder-to-shoulder, put-and-take fishing is not your cup of tea.

Barely out of shouting distance of hordes of other opening day anglers, there is a stretch of the Connetquot River which has been very good to me over the years. I'm speaking of that little fished section which winds from just south of the railroad tracks bridging Bubbles Falls pool and Rattlesnake Creek, downriver to where Dowling College stands as a majestic sentinel over a broad expanse of the river. As is the case with most "getaway" spots, the reason that this piece of river has gotten little play is due to its lack of access points. Virtually the entire section I am speaking about is bordered by private property to which the casual angler would say, "Then what good is it?" By being a little resourceful, however, there are ways of taking advantage of the river's potential.

By far the most efficient way to work this part of the river is from a ten to twelve foot car-top boat. Getting on the river can be accomplished by having someone drop you off and pick you up at an appointed time. There are a couple of spots bordering the road just north of Dowling where no parking is permitted, but where slipping a small, lightweight boat into the water is no problem. Another solution is to politely ask one of the homeowners if they would mind allowing you access. If you are courteous, you should have no problem. Leaving part of your catch and not forgetting to say thanks will help ensure that you receive a positive answer the next time. Needless to say, do not leave any trash behind. It only takes one or two slobs to ruin it for everyone.

If you are resigned to working the river from shore, again, the answer is to seek the permission of a property owner. Much of my fishing along the river has been from the banks and I've encountered very few problems over the years.

Whether your approach is from a boat or shore, the techniques are basically the same. Look for any kind of structure as a potential holding spot for large trout. Docks, bridges, and pilings are prime targets and there are many such spots dotting this end of the river. A good portion of my trout have come by carefully working around the perimeter of moored boats. Whenever possible, allow baits to drift under the craft. If using artificials, try to let the swing of your

(Continued on next page.)

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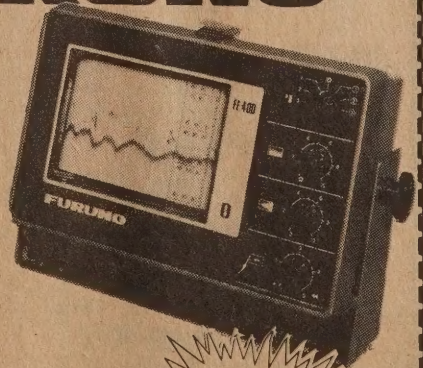

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retrieve pass as close to the boat as you can. Several good holes also mark this part of the Connetquot and through repeated visits you undoubtedly will discover their whereabouts. If this is a priority to you, then you probably already own a small, portable depth finder and it would be a good idea to bring it along. Since this stretch of the river is tidal, tides do play a part in the fishing. You would do best to concentrate your efforts between two hours before and two hours after high water. In nearly twenty years of fishing the river, I have taken very few fish outside of that range.

Don't expect to fill a stringer with trout back here. The byword is quality not quantity and one or two good fish make for a successful trip. As a youngster, the quality of the fishing was driven home on more than one occasion. Accustomed to taking many trout in the twelve to twenty inch range, several of us established our own sixteen inch minimum size limit. Every now and then, a non-regular would witness "these kids" releasing trout that he would have given thought to placing above the mantle. Upon learning that some of these fine anglers spent most of their time pursuing trout on such legendary streams as the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc, we eventually came to appreciate the quality of the fishing offered by the Connetquot. In addition to trout, this tidal reach offers the added bonus of encounters with white perch, small striped bass, tommy cod and flounder. So, if you should ever find yourself restless or bored, keep in mind that you do have other options. At some point, you may wish to explore them further.

In the tackle department, a light freshwater spinning rod matched with a reel comparable in size to the Penn 714, 716 OR 720 and filled with six pound mono is more than adequate.

If you prefer to fish artificial lures, I have had most of my success with minnow type plugs such as the Rebel and Rapala in the two-and-a-half to four inch size range. Spinners like the Mepps and the C.P. Swing have also taken fish for me.

Bait is probably the surest way to score and you can't go wrong with a nice, juicy night crawler. Live killies are an even better bet if your target is one of those big, carnivorous browns that roam the river. Both should be presented as naturally as possible on a #6 hook with the only other terminal tackle being the addition of a small split shot or two. At times, slow trolling (rowing) a small spinner and night crawler combo is effective. This same technique can be applied effectively with the minnow plugs.

So, if Opening Day is still in your blood but the crowds are not, why not give this tidal river approach a try? The only guarantees I can give you are the honking of low-flying geese, the serenity of a tidal river, solitude, and the **chance** of landing that monster trout you've always dreamed of.

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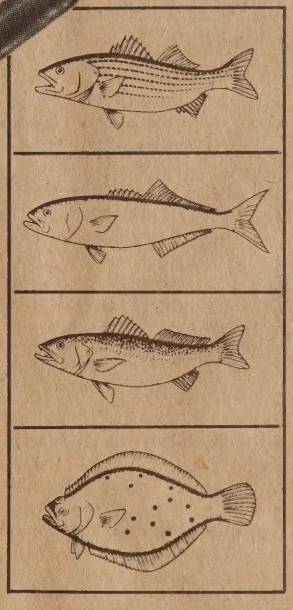

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NAVIGATION FOR THE SMALL CRAFT FISHERMAN

Part Seven — *by Jens Jacobs*

So, how did you math wizards make out with last week's question? Did it come out to 0.73734? If so, the answer is correct. For practical purposes, you can say the drift is 0.7 knots.

This week we are going to take a look at some of the more common pieces of electronic equipment seen aboard small boats and learn a little about the use, capabilities and limitations of such equipment. The average user of electronics knows little more than how to turn the equipment on and off and utilize the information it provides. And that's all the average person is supposed to do. In short, if that darn thing gave up its ghost and is dark, keep your paws out of the works unless you are an expert in fooling with equipment of that kind. If you don't, you are likely to mess it up more than it already is.

If you were smart enough to purchase your equipment from a reliable local dealer who is capable of performing required services, your troubles are likely to be solved within a few days. On the other hand, if for the sake of saving a few bucks you bought your set from a typical mail order discount house, you are likely to experience a great deal of aggravation when the time comes for service or advice. To be more specific, purchase your equipment from someone you can turn to with any of your troubles. It's well worth the few extra bucks it is likely to cost you at first.

Let's take a look at what kind of equipment we are talking about:

Depth sounders: flasher, recorder, combination flasher/recorder.

Radio direction finder: RDF, ADF, portable or permanent installations.

Long range navigation—better known in its abbreviated form: Loran.

Radio detecting and ranging: better known as radar.

In addition to these, there is Omega, special aviation systems, satellite navigation and more, most of which are for deep draft ships and of little interest to the small craft skipper.

Perhaps the most widely used piece of electronic equipment is the depth sounder. From the fisherman's point of view, the depth sounder serves a dual purpose: (1) navigational; (2) fish-finding. The paper recording type is a more useful tool as opposed to the flasher type. If used strictly as a navigational tool, it may be used to follow a depth curve as shown on Fig. #1 to bring you home in thick weather. Set your course deliberately off to one side or the other of your destination and run until you hit a given depth (let's use the depth your entrance buoy is in) and for argument's sake, let's say it lies in 35' of water. Then change course to one that follows the general direction of this depth curve. Make corrections as you go along to stay in 35' of water. If the depth curves are fairly close together, you should be able to find your buoy in this manner. Before employing this technique, however, you should examine the chart to see if there are any dangers along the way and whether or not the depth curves are too far apart. In other words, if your buoy is in 35' of water and there is 35' of water two miles before and beyond the buoy, you don't have much chance of finding it in this fashion. You can also use it to locate a certain depth curve offshore for fishing purposes.

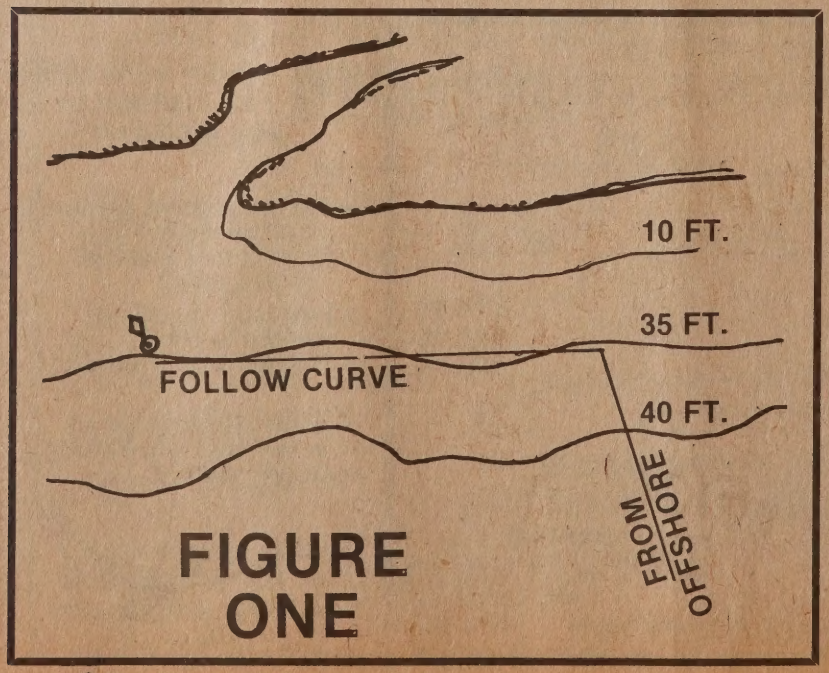

FIGURE ONE

The recorder type has the advantage of recording the bottom contour as well as marking any midwater fish that otherwise may be missed. As a general rule, the more you pay for the machine, the more you will get out of it in terms of sensitivity and features. One of the more desirable features is what is known as a white line or gray line recorder. This lets you detect fish close to the bottom and between rocks and is a valuable aid in locating interesting bottom formations or wrecks that may provide good fishing.

Another common instrument is the radio direction finder, or RDF for short. Basically, the RDF is an instrument that can "see" a transmitted radio beam. It has a dial similar to the compass, and a receiving antenna that can be rotated over this dial. By rotating the antenna to a point known as "null" (minimum signal received as observed at the "null meter"), the relative bearing of the transmitter can be read at the dial if 000 was set to dead ahead. One of the more common ways the RDF is used, is to "home in" on the transmitter. The procedure goes as follows: 1) set RDF antenna in the dead ahead position; 2) turn the boat until the null meter indicates "null." At that point, you should note the compass heading and proceed on that course. You should maintain your "null" at the meter and this may require minor course adjustments.

The "Homing" technique should be used with caution, especially if the transmitter is located somewhat inland (refer to Fig. #2). In this situation, we want to locate the sea buoy at an inlet with the transmitter well inland. The following procedure is recommended. 1) Draw a line from the transmitter through the buoy

several miles out to sea; 2) establish the bearing of this line (345 in our case); 3) select a course that assures that you will cross the 345 bearing outside of the buoy (the depth sounder may give you a clue to that) and proceed on that course until the meter on the RDF indicates "null" with the boat on a course of 345 and the RDF antenna to a relative bearing of 060 degr. (345-285) and continue on course 285 until the null meter indicates "Null." Now change the RDF antenna to dead ahead, and change course to 345. What we did is nothing more than get the boat on the range formed by the transmitter and the buoy by using the RDF and compass instead of our eyes. The importance of being on the range is indicated by the dashed line, where you simply home in on the station without regard for direction. A potentially dangerous situation as anyone can see.

If your pocketbook is bulging with money, you should not be without a Loran. Without going into great detail, a Loran receiver is a set capable of receiving special radio signals and translating them into position with great accuracy. Some receivers have a single readout, others a dual readout. Some display the readout in T.D. lines (time delay lines) and other in lat. and long., which is by far the most convenient for general navigation. There are, of course, some where you may switch from one readout to the other. Some let you program in different waypoints, and a built-in computer will give you the course to steer, indications as to cross track error, speed over bottom, distance to go to destination, time to go to destination and the list goes on to where it reaches the point of "magic." The great advantage of Loran is that it provides excellent position accuracy. The steer computer that some sets have are, in my opinion, overrated. Generally speaking, they can do one thing and that is to keep the boat within a certain lane from your point of departure to destination. Depending on the set, this lane may be from 100 to several 100' wide, and at times of poor visibility it is virtually impossible to keep the boat on a straight course by Loran (back again to the old reliable compass). If, however, it is used in conjunction with an accurate compass, you will be able to stay in that lane with great accuracy. A few minor course corrections may be required at times to get back on track.

Then there is radar, a tool of so many uses that it goes beyond this article. The fact is, in order to take full advantage of a radar installation, it is wise to attend a school on the subject, or at least read up on the subject in one of the many books available. Briefly, let's look at some of the capabilities.

Essentially there are two basic capabilities: display the distance of a target; display the relative bearing of a target. With this info, the knowledgeable observer can do things such as establish course and speed of another vessel, determine if a collision course exists with another vessel, determine position based on a suitable stationary object or objects, and establish own vessel's speed if a suitable object is available. At times, it is possible to outmaneuver a rain squall. In short, the knowledgeable radar observer can see and evaluate dangerous situations that could develop in terms of collision and navigation at times of poor visibility. As with other equipment, there are some limitations. For one thing, it is rarely possible to see targets at the range limit. A number of reasons are responsible for this. Height of antenna, height of target, nature of target, at what angle does the radar beam strike the target, and the size of the target. For example, it may be possible to see a large ship in rough weather, but you may not see a smaller boat at all between the so-called sea clutter or heavy rain. The shore line you see on the screen may not be the shore line at all, what you see may be higher ground further inland and not the low sloping beach. When coming in through an inlet or going up or down a river in poor visibility, one has to be extremely careful not to confuse any small boats with buoys and be aware of the fact that some buoys may be partially submerged due to strong currents. These may not show up on the screen at all.

To sum it all up, I would like to emphasize a few things. Know and apply the basic fundamentals in navigation. Plot your courses, measure distances, know the speed of the boat (no guessing), predict E.T.A., and be certain your basic navigational instrument—your compass—is accurate and dependable. Remember, there is no instrument aboard a boat or ship that is looked at and referred to as often as the compass and it does not know whether it is foggy or not. If you don't keep a complete plot on your chart, log all your moves so that you can plot your position at any time. If you have any fancy equipment, navigate with it. Use it to its fullest capability, but don't get the idea it will never fail you. Perhaps one of the best ways to gain confidence in your equipment and your own ability is to practice in clear weather under good conditions. Make up a list of courses and running times from buoy to buoy, from your dock to the inlet and back, and make it a habit to use it every time you go out and come back. Practice it until you blue in the face. Practice it in conjunction with radar if you have one. As you go along, make up a list of courses and times for incoming, outgoing and slack water, and don't give up until you have it down pat for there surely will come a time when you will need it.

One final note: by striving to become a sharp navigator you will discover a new dimension in boating, become more confident in your boating, and undoubtedly will benefit from it as a fisherman. Next week will be the conclusion of this series with a lot of problems for you to work on. So, get yourself geared up for it.

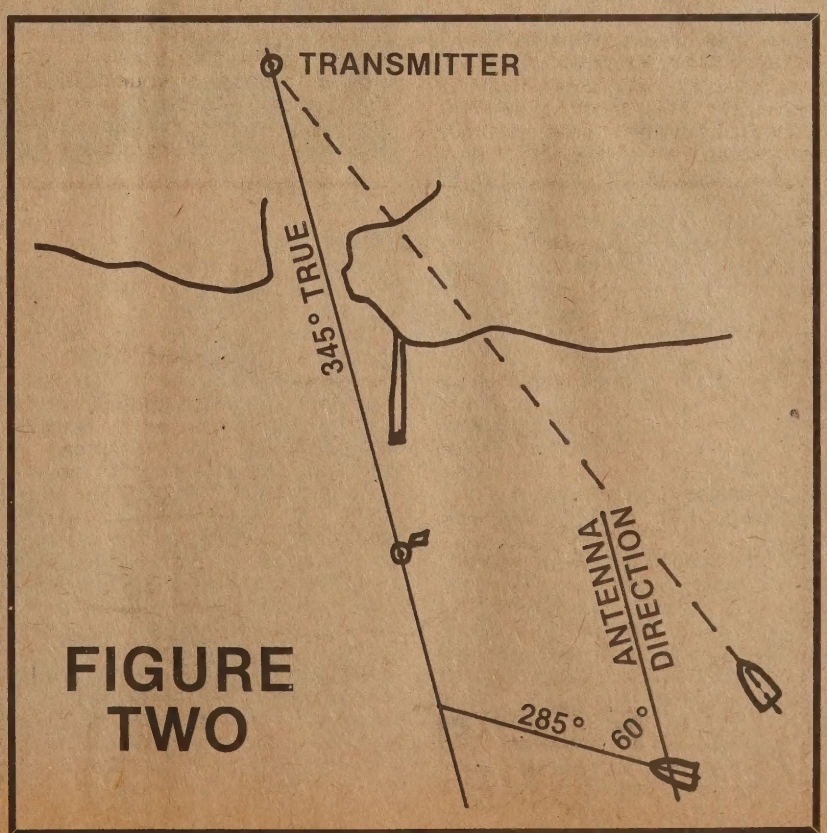

FIGURE TWO

MINI TRAVEL SPECIAL:

WATERSHED COUNTRY

by Gil Bell

Long Island anglers might wish to consider the excellent freshwater fishing that the New York City reservoirs of Westchester and Putnam County offer on a year-round basis. Look at a New York State road map and you will see that Route 684 heading north will put you in the vicinity of these impoundments.

Going from south to north there are a total of fifteen reservoirs: six in Westchester and nine in Putnam. They are: Kensico Reservoir in Valhalla; Muscoot and Cross River Reservoirs in Katonah; Croton Reservoir in Yorktown Height; Amawalk Reservoir in Amawalk; Titicus Reservoir in Purdy Station; Croton Falls Reservoir in Croton Falls; Diverting, Middle Branch, East Branch (Sodom) and Bog Brook Reservoirs in Brewster; West Branch Reservoir, and Lakes Gilead and Gleneida in Carmel and Boyd's Corners Reservoir in Kent Cliffs.

Topographic maps show the reservoirs in better detail. Write to: Topographic Division, U.S. Geological Survey, 1109 North Highland Street, Arlington, VA 22210 and request their free index to topographic maps of New York. This index shows the quadrangles in which these reservoirs are located. Here are the eleven different quadrangles which cover all the reservoirs: White Plains; Glenville; Ossining; Mount Kisco; Pound Ridge; Mohegan Lake; Croton Falls; Peach Lake; Oscawana Lake; Lake Carmel and Brewster. Most of these quadrangles may be bought at the Hammond Map Store, 12 East 41st Street in Manhattan; (212) 679-3870.

Maps showing underwater structure and depths are available for these five reservoirs: Kensico, Muscoot, Cross River, Croton and Croton Falls. Write or phone: International Map Company, 595 Broad Avenue, Ridgefield, N.J. 07657; (201) 943-5550.

Now that you have an idea where to go and how to get maps of these waters, let's discuss the City regulations governing these impoundments. In addition to a valid New York State fishing license ($6.25), anglers must have a free New York City fishing permit. Bring your 1981 fishing license, two passport-size photos, and proof of NYS residence, to one of the following three locations: Municipal Building, Department of Water Resources, Centre and Chambers Streets, NYC, 212-566-3575; Kensico Reservoir, Columbus Avenue, Valhalla, 914-946-2712; or Belden Road and Route 6 in Carmel, 914-225-3550. This permit is good for life. Children under age 16 require no permit.

Silver finished swimming plugs are effective on reservoir bass as well as trout.

Anglers are allowed to fish these reservoirs from shore, on the ice or by rowboat. No motors, gas or electric, are permitted. No car-topping is permitted, and once a boat is moored at a particular reservoir it must remain at that reservoir for the season. An angler, of course, may have several rowboats on several different reservoirs. Boats must measure from 11½' to 14½' in length and are limited to three anglers. Boats of 14½' may hold four anglers if your boating permit is endorsed. A life preserver or boat cushion must be available for each occupant. Boating permits are also free and are valid for five years with an annual inspection required. To get a boating permit call 212-566-3575 and state which reservoir it is for. After receiving your permit, affix your boat numbers on both sides of the bow and on the stern with letters no smaller than 2½" high. Send the permit to the local boat inspector who will inspect your boat and sign your permit. All of this red tape is designed to discourage fishing, which is good; however, master it, observe the rules and regulations and you are ready for some super fishing. Boating season runs from the first Saturday in April until November 30.

Let's quickly review the New York State Fishing Laws and seasons that cover these reservoirs. The trout season starts April 1 and runs through September 30. However, there are eight reservoirs that have a year-round trout season. They are: Kensico Reservoir (no ice fishing), Muscoot Reservoir, Cross River Reservoir, Titicus Reservoir, Croton Falls Reservoir, West Branch Reservoir, Lake Gilead and Lake Gleneida. Minimum length for brown and rainbow trout is 9". For lake trout it is 21", except for

Lakes Gilead and Gleneida where it is 15''. The daily limit is 5 trout in combination of which no more than 3 may be lake trout. In addition, 5 more brook trout may be kept. The pickerel season opens the first Saturday in May and lasts through March 15. The bass season starts on the third Saturday in June and runs through November 30. Other species such as: rock or red-eye bass, yellow and white perch, crappie, bowfin, carp, bullhead, bluegill, punkinseed, redbreasted sunfish, eels, cisco, and suckers have no season, size limit, nor daily limit.

Now, to whet your appetite, let's look at some of the more outstanding catches of years past. The 1978 Genesee Brown Trout winner of 20 lbs. 10 oz. came out of Croton Falls Reservoir, a 45 lb. carp was caught in Titicus Reservoir several seasons back; my biggest largemouth just under 8 lbs. came from Cross River Reservoir and the State record white perch was hooked in Muscoot Reservoir. The key to the rapid growth rate is the landlocked alewife or sawbelly population that is rampant throughout the 15 impoundments. There are some 80,000 acres of fishable water that have hardly been touched.

For up-to-date info on fishing in the area, you might like to call or stop by some of these tackle shops: North White Plains - R&R Sports Center, 914-948-6591; Mt. Kisco - C.J. Damm, 914-666-6367; Bedford Hills - The Bedford Sportsman, 915-666-8091; Katonah - Bob's Sport & Tackle Center, 914-232-4085; Ossining - Midge's Sport Shop, 914-941-5477; Brewster - John Knapp Sporting Center, 914-279-6062; Putnam Valley - Larry's Country Store, 914-528-1060.

There are three basic ways to fish these waters: from shore, by boat or through the ice. The boating season lasts for eight months. The big edge goes to the angler with a rowboat for one can cover more water and shore line, plus troll the different depths. The key is to eliminate unproductive water since you are relying on your own oar power. These reservoirs are flooded farmlands, crisscrossed by roads, rock walls and stone foundations. If shore fishing, look for influent chambers, streams, bridges and coves. Many times the shore line will give you a clue to the underwater terrain.

Year in and year out, live sawbellies account for some really outstanding catches. Drifting these baitfish at varying depths is by far the easiest way for a newcomer to this area to score.

Artificial lures will also take their share of good fish. The idea is to imitate the sawbelly, which means using silver finished lures. Finding the sawbelly depth is the key to success. The sawbellies will be where the plankton is and this depends on water temperature. If you see sea gulls working over baitfish on the surface, you'd better believe that there are some trout or bass under them forcing them to the top. I troll either monofilament, lead core, or wire line depending on the water temperature, and where the thermocline is. Of course, your lakers are deep in the summer and that's where the wire comes in handy. Lakers are in Kensico and Croton Reservoirs and Lakes Gilead and Gleneida. Browns and rainbows are in most of the rest since they are stocked by the state.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass are in all reservoirs. Smallmouths identify with rock structure, while largemouths prefer the weeds and milfoil in the shallows. Live crayfish are deadly for the smallmouths and fall is the prime time for catching big bass. After the water turns over, bass start gorging themselves for the winter months ahead. You will find them in deep water where trolled crankbaits work best. My eight pound largemouth was caught in fifty feet of water using lead core.

As in saltwater angling, fishing the reservoirs can be as simple or as involved as you like. If you're ready for a change of pace, give it a try. These reservoirs offer more than a lifetime of fishing pleasure. They are beautiful in their own right and hopefully, will remain so. There is nothing worse than the sight of a shore line marred by litter; so leave only footprints and fond memories behind.

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MUSSELS:
The Flounder's Choice

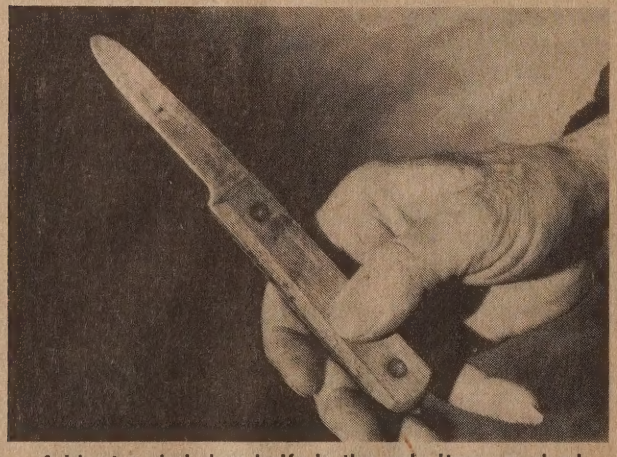
by Sal Terranova

There is nothing that will attract flounder to your hooks quite like a freshly-shucked, gooey gob of mussel. Clams and worms have their days, but in the long run, the bright, yellow flesh of the bank mussel will result in more flounder finding their way into your bucket than both the other baits combined. No doubt about, mussels are the most consistent all-around flounder bait.

Unfortunately, quite a few anglers still persist in choosing other flounder baits over mussels. In fact, some fishermen totally exclude the mollusk from their repertoire of flounder enticers. It's not that these anglers are unaware of the mussel's reputation as a prime flounder bait; rather, they consider the use of the bivalve to be too much of a bother. They cite two reasons for this, reasons that prove to be unfounded when examined closely.

One reason is that some fishermen don't know how to properly go about shucking mussels; and the other reason is that many find baiting their hooks with the mollusk to be a troublesome task since the soft flesh has a tendency to slip easily off a hook. Opening mussels is so simple that anyone can get the knack of it within five minutes after being shown how to go about it. In fact, when I think of all the anglers who usually wind up smashing the bivalve to bits with a ten ounce sinker, thereby rendering the bait unusable, I don't know whether to laugh or cry. I'm sure that if one of these anglers were to be shown the right way to get the job done in the midst of his frantic efforts to open one, he would be so chagrined that he probably would want to go bury his head in the sand like an ostrich. I know, for I once had the same feeling until a kind-hearted mate (who shall remain nameless for the sake of protecting my reputation as a so-called fishing "expert") came to my rescue aboard a Sheepshead Bay party boat after observing my attempts to open a mussel. After having smashed the mollusk to smithereens with an eight ounce sinker, I was at the point where you attempt to scrape numerous tiny pieces of mussel flesh off of numerous

(Continued on page 26.)



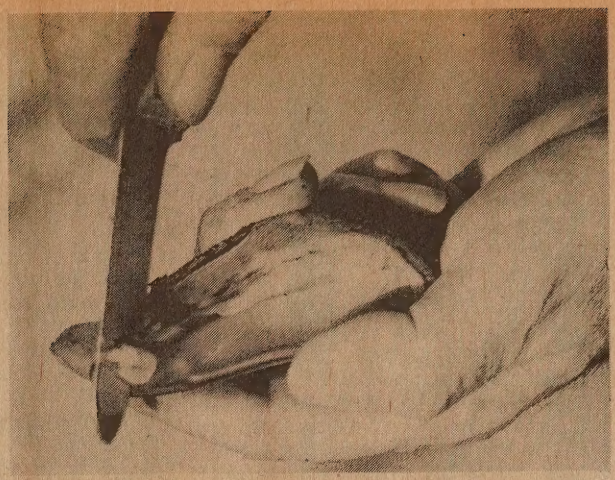
A blunt-ended clam knife is the only item required for shucking mussels.

Rest the mussel on your palm, holding it between your thumb and fingers. The narrow end of the mollusk should point outward from you, while the indented side of the shell with the hair-like fibers should be facing upwards. Now scrape the fibers off the shell.

A small slit will appear where the shells meet after you have removed the fibers. Insert the clam knife into the slit, plunging the blade all the way in.

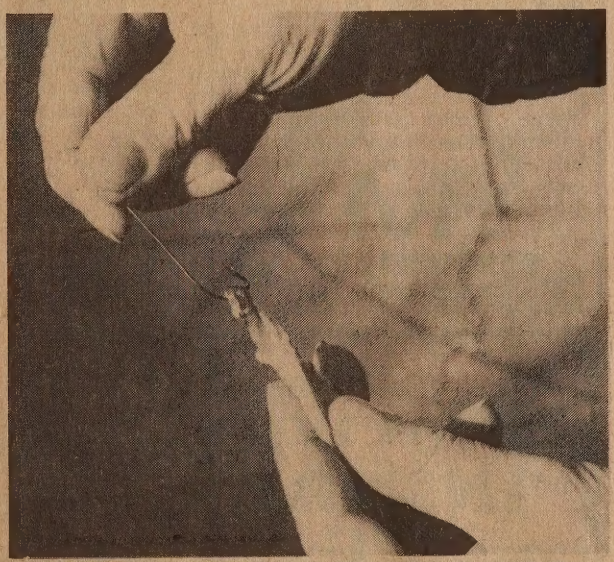
Work the blade down towards the wide end of the shell. This motion will sever one of the muscles that holds the shell together. The shells will now open noticeably.

It is now an easy task to pry the mussels open with your thumbs.

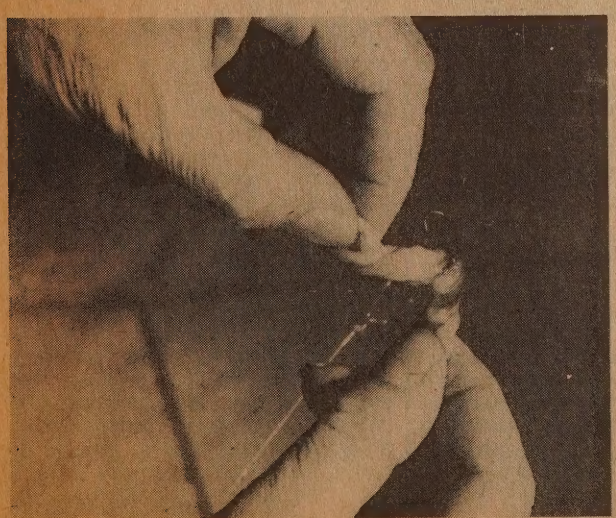


Now pull the shells apart for easier handling as you scoop the flesh out from each shell. This is accomplished by inserting the blade and slicing under the lip membrane running along the inside edge of each shell.

After cleaning both shells, you will have two pieces of bait.



To bait your hook, insert the point through the tough, brown "tongue" of the flesh.



Sliding the brown flesh up the shank, hold it secure with thumb and forefinger of one hand, while wrapping the rest of the flesh around the shank with the other hand.

Impale the hook through the brown-edged lip membrane to secure the bait to the hook firmly. Take care to leave a bit trailing off the hook. VOILA! Bon appetit, Monsieur Flounder.

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tiny pieces of mussel shell, hoping to get enough pieces of meat to equal one whole bait, which you can then attempt to string along the shank of your hook like beads on a cord. Needless to say, this is not considered to be among one of the more effective methods of baiting a hook with this mollusk. After laughing until his sides were sore, the mate enlightened me as to how to properly go about this process. As you can imagine, I felt like crawling into one of the scupper holes! So for those among you who are still perplexed when confronted by the task of shucking a mussel—take heart, for I, too, as well as many others, were once in the same boat. The method illustrated by the photos and described herein will surely put an end to your mussel-smashing days.

I must admit that the other reason given by many anglers for avoiding using mussels has some merit. Indeed, mussel flesh is quite soft and therefore difficult to keep fastened to a hook for any appreciable length of time. Many fishermen go to extremes to solve this problem: they steam the mussels to toughen the meat or tie the flesh to the hook with sewing thread. While there is no one hundred percent foolproof solution to this problem, the method that I will describe in this article is not only simple and practical, it is also the nearest thing to perfection. However, before going into this, let's take a look at mussels: the different varieties, where they are found, and their characteristics.

There are two varieties of mussels native to our waters. One is the black mussel (Mytilladae edulis), also known as the green or ribbed mussel, or by a combination of any two of the three names. When you purchase mussels for bait in a tackle store, you will invariably receive a bagful of the latter variety.

The black mussel is the smaller of the two species. Its color is a deep blue-black and its shell is smooth. Black mussels group together in clumps that can number in the hundreds. These mollusks congregate on pilings and jetties, where they are often exposed above water at low tide. They also group together on sandy bottoms by attaching themselves to each other and any solid objects around. They accomplish this by means of tough, threadlike fibers known as "Byssus." The black mussel is the species of the mollusk that is commonly eaten by humans. In Europe it is a popular dish; while in America, its use is restricted to certain ethnic cuisines, particularly Italian. As one who has been exposed to Italian culinary delights since childhood, I heartily recommend a piping-hot dish of "Cozzichi con salsa calda" (steamed mussels with hot sauce) the next time you pay a visit to an Italian seafood restaurant!

Black mussels can be easily gathered by scraping or pulling them off of pilings or jetties at low tide. However, only do this if you intend to use them for flounder bait. I strongly urge you not to eat any mussels that you have gathered, for they may prove to be toxic. Black mussels in any area nearby to a city may be tainted due to sewage or other pollutants that may be in the water. Black mussels found **anywhere** may feed on certain toxic species of planktonic creatures known as "dinoflagellates" during some seasons. Ingestion of mussels or any shellfish which have dined upon these micro-organisms can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, which is not fatal, but certainly unpleasant to say the least. It is not worth risking your own or your family's health for the sake of saving a few bucks. For eating purposes, stick to the mussels served in restaurants or sold in fish stores. These come from beds in areas that have been deemed safe by the authorities.

Getting back to their use as flounder bait, black mussels are not sold in bait stores due to their higher value as food for humans; therefore, you will have to secure your own supply. I would rate their effectiveness as a flounder bait below bank mussels, worms, and skimmer clams. The flesh of the black mussel is not as juicy and pulpy as that of the bank mussel; and its color is a pale tan compared to the highly attractive (to flounder, anyway) bright yellow flesh of the bank mussel. Still, black mussels can be a very good bait at times, and I would use **fresh** black mussels over frozen clams or leftover worms any time. Since black mussels are fairly easy to gather, they are a good bait to use when nothing else fresh is available.

The bank mussel is the species of mussel that is by far the most extensively used as a flounder bait. In fact, it is **the** flounder bait in the estimation of many flatfishermen, and it is to this one the advice passed on here is directed. The bank mussel is larger than the black mussel, and its shell is ribbed in a way similar to a scallop shell. Although sometimes referred to as green mussel, the color of the bank mussel's shell is actually a brownish-green similar to the color that military vehicles are painted. Although edible, the taste of the bank mussel is said to be so unpleasant to the human palate that no one bothers to eat them (except for flounders, of course). A large bank mussel may reach five inches in length and yield two healthy pieces of bait. The bank mussel is a solitary creature in that it does not clump together with other members of its species in the fashion that black mussels do. However, where you find one, you will find many others in the immediate vicinity. The bank mussel inhabits marshy areas and mud banks (hence the name) that are covered with water at high tide along tidal estuaries and bays. Areas yielding bank mussels abound on Long Island, especially on the south shore. You will find the mussels buried among the reed-lined marsh banks at low tide, with only the

very tip of the narrow end of the creature protruding above the surface of the mud to give away its location. Like their relative the black mussel, the bank mussel attaches itself to the surroundings by means of tough, hairlike fibers. You can gather bank mussels for bait by pulling them out of the ground by hand, one by one. Please be careful not to damage the flora of the marshes by employing clam rakes or other such implements. Remember, the mud banks and marshes are the breeding grounds for many types of creatures, including many forage species that make up a large part of the diet of many game fish.

Personally, I feel that gathering mussels for bait is a waste of time. A bag of several dozen mussels retails for about $1.50 or so. At most, you may use three bags during a day's fishing if you chum heavily. Still, this comes out to under $5. It will take one person at least an hour or so of wading through the muck to come up with the same amount. This time could be better spent fishing, the saving of a couple of bucks is hardly worth the effort.

Now, as to how to go about opening the bank mussel. First thing, get yourself a blunt-ended clam knife to do the job. The knives are available at most tackle shops for about a buck or so. Position the mussel on your palm, holding it between your thumb and fingers with the narrow end of the mollusk away from you. The indented side of the shell with the fibers on it should face upwards. Scrape the fibers off the shell with the knife. Upon doing this, a small slit will appear between the shells. Insert the blade into the slit and plunge it in as far as it will go, then work it down towards the wide end of the shell. At this, one of the muscles holding the shells together will have been severed by the blade, and the shells will open noticeably. It is now possible to pry the mussel open with your thumbs. Eureka! The mussel is open! I told you it was easy. Although some anglers shuck mussels by running the knife through both sides of the shell in order to completely unhinge the bivalve, I find the method described here to be faster and just as effective. After prying the shells apart, extract the flesh by inserting the knife under the "lip" membrane which extends all around the inside edge of the shell. Running the blade along the edge between the lip and the shell should free the flesh, although you may have to do a bit of slicing here and there. You will now have two juicy pieces of bait, one from each shell, ready to be placed on your hooks.

To bait up, stick the point of the hook through the tougher brown meat, known as the tongue. Sliding the meat up the shank, hold it secure with the thumb and forefinger of one hand, while wrapping the rest of the flesh around the shank with the other hand. At the end of the flesh you will come across the tough, brown-edge lip; stick the hook through this to secure the bait, and make certain to leave some of the lip hanging off the hook to further entice the flatties.

Although this method of baiting hooks with mussel flesh is not guaranteed to be totally effective all of the time, it is by far the best. Wrapping the mussel to the hook with sewing thread will work, but it is such a time-wasting hassle that it is not feasible; more so when the flounder are biting hot and heavy. Do not—I repeat—do not under any circumstances steam mussels to facilitate opening them and to toughen the meat. This process will cause the bait to lose all of its fish-attracting properties. Steaming them will dehydrate the mussels. They will lose the juice which gives them their smell, flavor, and gooey texture, and fade the bright yellow color that drives flounder nuts.

Since the process of shucking mussels can consume precious moments when the flounder are biting like mad, it is a good idea to prepare some bait for the hook beforehand. Preferably, purchase your mussels the day before your trip and shuck them the night before. Sort out the larger mussels for use as hook bait, while putting the smaller ones aside for the chum pot. As you go about shucking the mussels, take measures to retain their juices. Place the shucked mussels in a plastic container and pour the extra mussel juice over them. Shut the container tightly, and keep it in the refrigerator overnight. Although it's best to use these mussels as soon as possible, pre-shucked mussels will keep for up to a week in the refrigerator. When you go fishing, keep the shucked mussels in reserve until the flatties go on a feeding binge and every second counts. You will be surprised as to how many more flounder you will catch by having thus reduced re-baiting time to a minimum.

Although I prefer to fish with fresh mussels whenever possible, you may want to keep some mussels on hand over an extended period of time. Live mussels in the shells will last up to several weeks in the refrigerator. However, for periods of up to several months, it is best to shuck and then salt the mussels. **Do not** freeze mussels for long-term storage. When defrosted, you will find the meat to be so mushy as to be next to impossible to keep on a hook. The freezing process will also cause the mollusk to lose all the taste, smell, color and texture flounder find so appealing.

After shucking, place a few of the mussels in a plastic container, then salt them liberally, preferably with Kosher salt. Add some more mussels to the container, and some more salt, and so on until the container is full. Seal the container tightly and place it in the refrigerator. Mussels stored in this fashion will keep for three or four months; thus you can save mussels leftover from last fall's flounder expeditions over the winter for use the next spring. Of course, salted mussels are nowhere near as effective as fresh ones, nonetheless, they will produce fish, more so when the flounder are biting frantically and throwing all caution to the wind. Therefore, keep the salted mussels on hand until the flounder go bananas and don't notice the difference. Using the salted mussels in this kind of situation will obviously cut down on re-baiting time also.

I hope that the procedures and tips passed on to you here will result in your spending less time opening mussels and more time unhooking flounder—not to mention checking out a great Italian seafood dish!

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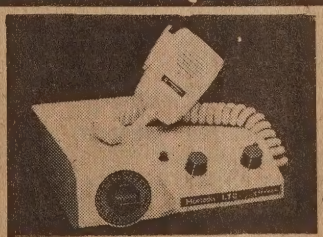

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WHITING AT AMBROSE

by Ferd DiPalma

Any true dyed-in-the-wool whiting buff can be found on some of winter's coldest days fishing the more than 200 foot depths of the Mud Hole whither these silver-scaled one to two-and-a-half pound "frosties" have fled to the protection of warmer waters. This has to be considered hardship fishing with frigid wintry blasts picking up even more cold as they move across the icy surface of the sea. Not only that, but the strong deep-water currents often dictate the use of heavy sinkers to hold bottom. All of this adds up to hard work, cold sport, and a numbness of sense and feel that affects both fish and fisherman alike.

However, to each his Own. I have a great deal of respect for those hardy individuals who pursue the frostfish to their deepest haunts no matter what the thermometer says or the barometer predicts. Not so this somewhat less than totally dedicated whiting fisherman. I prefer to take them at the Ambrose Grounds. In the spring of the year, the first warming of the inshore waters dictates a lateral movement of large schools of whiting from their deep water recesses up to the slope to the comparatively shallow water of the Ambrose ridge.

And what a difference this makes in angling fun! In the deep water, the heavy tackle plus the sluggish fish usually provided more fight from the sinker than the benumbed fish that had all but expired as it was being reeled in. In the spring the opposite proved true. Lighter rods, weights of four or six ounces, allowed the angler to really feel the hits of the much more active fish as they eagerly struck the offered baits. On such tackle, the fishermen (and fisherpersons) were able to experience the moderate struggle provided by the larger specimens, especially the ones popularly called "baseball bats."

The Ambrose ground, dominated by its famous "iron horse" light tower is equally accessible to party boats from all North Jersey ports as well as those from Staten Island and Sheepshead Bay. On clear days the head boat fans will be fishing with the Jersey Highlands, the Coney Island/Rockaway shore, the New York skyline and the Verrazano Bridge as a backdrop to the action.

Depending on wind and tide conditions, the vessels move to the west side of the channel where the Scotland Light, a spear rising out of the sea, topped with its own blinking beacon marks another of the whiting holding grounds.

I prefer to use a hi-lo rig for these good-looking, but not overly strong fish. Three hooks may be even better with one 2-0 hook running off an eight to twelve inch leader about six inches above the four or six ounce sinker. Another hook can be added about fifteen inches above the first, and a third, fifteen inches above the second. Thus, all told, the terminal rig will be about thirty-six inches in length. Frequently the higher hooks will prove to be the most productive. If the sinker should be too light, the line will slant out at too great an angle as the vessel drifts. This will have the effect of keeping all three hooks too close to the bottom. A possible result, if ling are also present would be to miss out on the silver hake and begin to pick up its ground hugging cousin. You want both? Go to the heavier weight—six or even eight ounces.

Whiting will readily take clams, cut herring and squid. Some party boat skippers prefer to supply the fares with the tough strips of squid. This is a good idea. The shallow water areas in spring are often loaded with pesky little bergalls. Fishermen using soft baits will be constantly reeling in to inspect their hooks, since every little nibble could mean that one of these adept little thieves had stripped the hooks clean. With the much tougher squid, however, the angler can confidently keep on fishing until the more significant rap of the whiting is felt.

Whiting are popular food fish and are sought in quantity. They keep well in the freezer and, since they are not a fatty or oily fish, the white flesh will hold its flavor for well beyond six months. They can be deep fried, sauteed; the larger ones split and broiled. But most important of all for those who go in for specialized foods, the whiting is an excellent candidate for the smoker or for pickling.

Pick a day when the wind will be blowing moderately from a westerly quarter. This will tend to flatten out the sea and usually, as the day progresses, the fishing for whiting often gets better and better.

There is no reason why, on a good day, even a beginning fisherman should not be able to run up a decent score. The regulars, of course, will often wind up with a catch that fills the traditional five gallon bucket.

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

A big improvement in the cod fishing was phoned in by the **Viking Star** skipper, Capt Paul Forsberg. Paul told us that Saturday was good at the CIA grounds with a total 125 cod, mostly from 10 to 20 lbs. A 42 pounder was hung by Tom Powell, but this fish was not in the pool. The pool was taken by Norm Bichelman, a 34 lb. cod. Sunday's action was very good in the morning, with 65 cod coming over the rail, also averaging 10 to 20 lbs. A 40 pounder took the pool. All this fishing has been on clam bait and Paul looks forward to the coming run of pollack so that fares will be able to do some jig fishing. The big **Viking Starship**, presently fishing out of Key West, Florida, just enjoyed a very good weekend's fishing off the Tortugas. Paul says customers filled all the fish boxes plus 3 big tubs. Three geniune red snappers were caught of 27½, 26 and 25 lbs. John Kronach of Montauk had the 27½ pounder. Lots of muttun snappers and grouper were also caught. The last trip for the **Starship** will be May 5th and then the boat will return to her home port of Montauk.

Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** wants to pass on a word of thanks...that there are no words to express the deepest thanks and appreciation to all the wonderful people who remembered him while he was a patient in the Southampton and St. Luke's hospitals. Rich says that your thoughtfulness will never be forgotton. Rich says that the **Marlin V** continues to do a fair job on cod and that once the water warms a couple od degrees more, action should improve a great deal.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

Altenkirch Tackle reports that flounders are okay in the canal when the gates are shut, but nothing to be super excited about. Fish are mixed sizes, mostly keepers. Blood and sand worms along with mussels and clam bait are working well and chumming is of course a huge help. Heady Creek is also a good flounder spot this week. Mackerel are only 80 miles off the beach and thick and should be around in another 2 to 3 weeks.

MORICHES BAY

Bob at **Hi-Way Fishing Station** said that there was some decent flounder action in the buoy 54 area on Sunday. Best scores were made by the early birds who had catches in the two dozen fish range. While the wind and cold has hurt the fishing somewhat, one of the local sharpies has been running down to buoy 44 and consistently coming back with 40 to 60 nice keepers. Worms and mussel chum have been responsible for the best catches up to this point.

The word from **Skidmore's Fishing Station** was that bigger fish appear to have moved into the bay, while lots of small fish remain in the Quogue Canal. Catches on Saturday at "ace in the hole" ranged upwards to 60 fish from 1/2 to 1¾ lbs. On Sunday, better fishing was found between buoys 50 and 52 where some boats totalled as many as 70 flounder. Jim emphasized that mussel, corn or clam chum is absolutely essential if you want to make a good score. Mussels appear to have an edge in the bait department, but worms and red dyed clams have also been good.

From **L&M Marine**, Larry spoke of plenty of flounder in the Quogue Canal. Just how many was demonstrated on Sunday by John Raffael, Tony Edwards and Joe Fritz who totalled 150 keepers up to 2 lbs. and released as many smaller fish. They fished buoy 52 and buoy 7A using worms and dyed clams along with plenty of mussel chum.

Silly Lily Fishing Station reported a good weekend with two Holbrook anglers totalling two dozen big flounder up to 2 lbs. Buoy 42 has been the scene of the best action, with fish being taken on both tides. Blood worms along with heavy chumming has been accounting for the best scores.

John at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** tells of a pretty good weekend with flounders caught up to 1½ lbs. with quite a few throwbacks mixed in. On Saturday Gerald Tompkins and son of Ozone Park had a solid catch at buoy 7A in Quogue Canal. Sunday saw 2 anglers score with 55 keepers at buoy 52. Blood worms and mussel chum is the way to go.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Capt Andy's Fishing Station reports that flounder are being caught in the ¾ to 1 lb. range from buoy 17 to the bridge. Clam or sand worm on the hook is doing the best on outgoing tide. Catches are averaging 10 to 15 flounders a man and the station presently has boats in the water.

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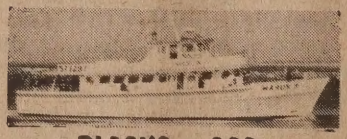

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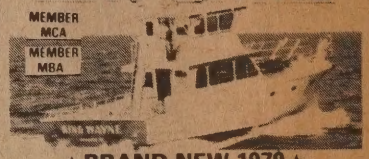

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From **Stiriz' Fishing Station** Gary reported nice flounder being taken between buoy 17 and the bridge. Saturday's best catch was made by Al and Andy Burio who totalled 66 flounder up to 1 lb. 12 oz. at buoy 17. They used worms and mussels and chummed heavily with mussel chum. Other boats accounted for scores in the 40 to 50 fish range, with the best action occurring on the ebb tide.

EAST ISLIP

From **Peppy's Bait and Tackle Shop,** Irene reported fair fishing off of Heckscher and Islip on worms and clams. An exceptional catch was made at the Inlet on Sunday by Rich Anderson, Tom Legnon and Bob Forrest who totalled 88 flatties up to 2 lbs. using worm and corn combos.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** has been working the grounds off of Islip and Bay Shore. He described Friday's fishing as very good as ten men totalled 150 big flounder, most of which were in the 1 to 1¼ lb. class. Ed Kondrackle of Hicksville and Sid Winnick of Bay Shore combined to put 53 flounder away. Captain Neil said that fishing on the weekend was slow, with the high hook each day totalling around 10 fish. Fishing was done on the same Bay Shore grounds and as far east as Patchogue. The skipper figures that the severe drop in water temperature has only served to delay what was shaping up as a super flounder season.

Linda of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** asked us to relay word of the grand opening for Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle located one block west of Wellwood Avenue on Saturday, March 28. Why not stop by and say hello. On the fishing front, Todd Stubmann, 12 years of age and his dad Butch combined for a catch of 16 flounder up to 1½ lbs. taken aboard their private boat, the Five Sons at Heckscher. They used worms for bait. On Sunday, Bay Shore Tuna Club members Ed Wicks, John Santiago and Ed Whitney took an hour off to sample the flounder fishing in the bay and wound up with eight fish up to 1 lb. 10 oz.

CAPTREE

The open boat **Capt. Rod** reported that the water temperature in the bay dropped six degrees over the course of the week, which slowed what had started out as an excellent spring flounder run. Action during the week was fair while weekend fishing was described by Capt. Rod as picky. He noted, however, that the fish being taken in the Heckscher to Cherry Grove area are all real nice sized fish.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reported that fares picked away over the weekend with catches to the tune of 6-10 nice sized fish per man. This weekend's afternoon trips, however, were poor due to unfavorable tide conditions. The skipper fished the Heckscher park grounds and went as far east as Cherry Grove. Clams, worms and mussels have all been working at one time or another, with the flood tide producing the best action.

The open boat **Captree Queen** reported that Saturday's action was very slow due to strong winds and cold water temperatures which have hindered the fishing. Sunday was an improvement with 18 fares accounting for about 160 flatties. Fishing was done between buoys 2 and 4 and clams, worms and mussels all took fish, although mussels seemed to have had the edge. Nice sized fish have been the rule, according to Captain George Roman.

The **Captain Leitch** said that on Saturday eleven fares totalled 120 flounder up to 1¾ lbs. fishing buoy 4 at Heckscher and buoy 10 to the west. Water temperature is down due to the cold, but Captain Leitch expects that a few days of mild weather will result in some really fine action.

Captain Marty of the new **Jib VII** reported that fishing was picky during the week due to wind and cold. Fishing improved on Sunday however with Joe Kemper of Brooklyn winding up with 14 keepers and the pool fish, a whopping 2½ lb. flattie. Fishing was done off of Heckscher and Islip.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the open boat **Capt. Bob Joseph** reported pretty good fishing on Saturday off of Heckscher Park at buoy 4. High hook for the second week in a row was Bob Pace and his wife Kitty, who totalled 38 flounder from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. between them. Fishing slowed on the Heckscher grounds Sunday, so the skipper moved east off of Sayville and wound up with a total catch of about 250 flatties. Mussel bait accounted for the best scores.

BABYLON

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle,** Ralph said that everyone managed some flounder this past weekend. Saturday was tough due to the winds, but on Sunday a couple of decent catches were made. Young Jodi Fisk landed 22 nice keepers out of a total catch of 30 that she and her stepfather fishing off of Heckscher State Park. Also on Sunday, Gasper Giarraputo of the private boat Karen E checked in a

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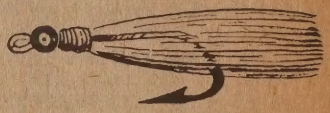
Sails from Brewer's Marina (128 Shore Rd.)
Exit 39N on L.I.E. (Glen Cove Rd.) to end. Left turn & then right turn at 2nd lite onto Shore Rd.



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CAPT. DON'S
EVER READY
10. 8A.M.-2P.M. SAT. & SUN. ONLY
1st TRIP SATURDAY, MARCH 28
KNUTSON'S MARINA: L.I.E. EXIT 49N, END RT. 110 NORTH TO HUNTINGTON, TO END OF NEW YORK AVE. AT FLASHING LIGHT, BARE TO LEFT. APPROX. 500' DOWN ON LEFT SIDE.
CAPT. BILL "PACK" COLLINS (516) 271-3559

mess of flatties up to 1 lb. 9 oz. which he also took at Heckscher. Ralph said that worms, dyed clams and mussels have all been effective.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reported pretty good flounder action at West Island, Windy Hook and at Fort Neck Point in Massapequa Cove. Mussels or worms have been taking fish ranging from throwbacks up to 1½ lbs. Clam or mussel chum is essential for a good catch.

SEAFORD

The word from **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** was of good flounder action in the Massapequa Cove area. Most of the fish are nice size and are being taken on both tides. Louis Ovsenik and Willy Gasperi, both of City Island totalled 44 flatties up to 2 lbs. using mussels and worms. Bill Heinz of Westbury filled a 5 gallon pail to the top fishing in the same area, while Mike Sommers put away 35 flatties at the first Wantagh bridge. All three catches were made over the weekend and Captain Eddie noted that chumming with either clams, mussels or corn is very important.

John of **Pop's Fishing Station** reported a catch of 14 flounder up to 2 lbs. 7 oz. for Joe Jamis of Queens. Joe fished in the vicinity of Squaw Island. On Sunday, Lester Marino along with his sons Chris and Pete put away 36 flatties up to 1¾ lbs. fishing in Massapequa Cove. They used worms for bait and chummed with both corn and mussels. Best action was on incoming water. John asked us to remind boatmen fishing the area that buoys have not yet been put in place and pole markers should be used as reference points.

The open boat **Chinco** found fishing this past weekend slow, although some fish were taken. Most of the flatties that were caught are on the larger side, with quite a few in the 1-2 lb. range. Worms and mussels have been working best. Chumming with clams is a must, as the fish have been very picky in their feeding habits due to cold water temperatures. Outgoing tide has produced the best fishing.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle says that over the weekend flounders to the tune of 12 to 18 a boat have been whacking blood worms and clam bait in Merrick Bay, Rowboat Alley and Ned's Creek with the deeper holes producing best on both tides.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells of a good weekend with decent catches of flounder caught. All the boats that Jack knows of had 25 to 30 keepers. Productive areas were in Middle Bay off the Baldwin Harbor Park and off the Golf Course, one pole out. Fish were running 1 to 1¼ lbs. with reportedly no throwbacks. Worms and red clam produced and chumming says Jack was not that necessary. The incoming tide seems to be best.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

The **Capt Lou III** called to say that he will be starting on Saturday, March 28th on his full day flounder trips. There will be an opening day party on the boat to celebrate the first trip. The **Capt Lou IV** will start sailing his two half-day flounder trips the following Saturday, April 4th.

The **Capt Al** tells of very good flounder catches Saturday, with Sunday's score classified as fair. Al says the action has been best at Squaw Island with fish ranging from 1 to 1½ lbs. He says flounders are all over the bay and this looks like a banner year coming up. The fish are big for this time of the year.

Capts Jimmy Lanzzerata and Dick Hall are happy to announce the arrival of their new boat, the **Super Spray II** which has just arrived in Woodcleft Canal. The boat is sailing out of the **Freeport Boatmen's Association's** dock on Guy Lombardo Ave. The 90' all aluminum super cruiser will be specializing in tile and cod wreck trips in season and of course day and night bluefishing, say the skippers. The boat will be starting off the year on Saturday, April 4th with 2 half-day flounder trips, at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Jimmy says that they will be going for mackerel as soon as these fish are within striking range.

Sea Isle Sports tells of good flounder catches at pole 18, Reynold's Channel and also in Merrick Bay in

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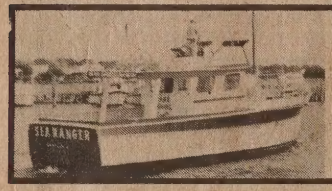

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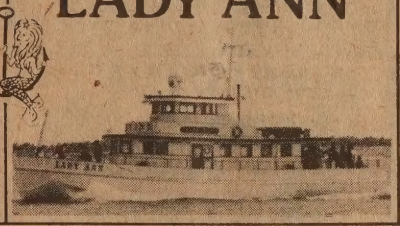
LADY ANN



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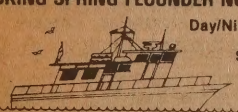

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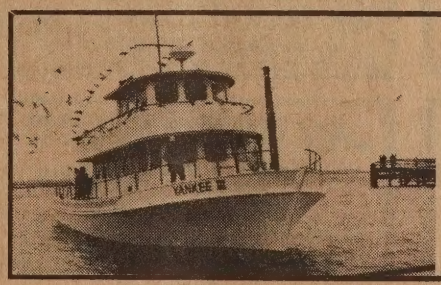

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the channel off **Nick's Fishing Station**. Fish are running ¾ to 1½ lbs.

The **Aloma II**, which sailed 2 half-day flounder trips Saturday and Sunday reports both morning trips had nice size fish but not quantity, due to the moon tides. Catches on the a.m. trips averaged 4 to 5 flatties a man. The afternoon trips on both days however were much better with some anglers having 12 to 15 good keeper flounder a man, from 1 to 1½ lbs. Fish were hitting best on the last of the ebb and showed a distinct preference for mussel bait.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that flounder fishing was good on Saturday and also Sunday even though the weather was not all that it could have been. All the boats that got out caught flounder near buoy 17 to 19 in Reynold's Channel, on the flats of Reynold's Channel and also Middle Bay and Sea Dog Creek. Worms and mussels were the best bait and chumming of course was a big assist.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle** tells us that the Magnolia Ave. pier has been a good bet this past week for flounders on blood worms with chumming a definite asset. The pier area at Bay Park, East Rockaway, should be very good by this weekend also. Charlie says once the warm weather breaks as it is supposed to this week, flounder catches should increase tremendously.

LONG BEACH

Bernie at **Long Beach Sports Marina** tells us that he had 5 rental boats out Sunday which had a slow pick on the flounders, though nobody got shut-out. A couple of private boats did well as evidenced by a solid catch of 45 flatties by Long Beach angler John Candelaria, fish taken behind Duck Point on mussel bait and heavy mussel chum. The beginning of the flood was best and fish went up to 1½ lbs. Bernie says with an increase in water temp, catches will blossom.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ron Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** called to say that he expects to splash in in 2 weeks and has outfitted the boat with a new radar and some really delicate fish finding equipment. Ronnie says he still has a few June and November striped bass dates open. Choice dates went fast, as last November the boat had over 400 stripers to its credit.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** also names the Magnolia pier in Long Beach as a choice flounder spot this past week and weekend and also Duck Point, fish from 1 to 1¼ lbs. Worms and mussels did the trick.

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Skippy's Bait & Tackle tells of a good weekend of fishing in his area. On Sunday, fishing in Swift Creek at Bay Park, Eddie (no last name) accounted for 42 keeper flounders from the beach on sand worms on the flood. He had 15 on Saturday in the early morning hours. Skip says that the flats at Duck Island are producing now since the water is colder in the main channels. Perch are being taken behind Hermans on Mill Road on shrimp and killies. A real flounder grabber has been the addition of small yellow twister grubs on the shank of your flounder hooks. Supposed to be dynamite.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reports flounders from 1 to 1¼ lbs. being caught on mussels and worms, incoming tide best off both north and south channel bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Kevin of the **Dorothy B** fished the Shrewsbury River Saturday and Sunday. High hook Saturday was 21 fish and the same number on Sunday took high hook honors. All fares had flounder, said Kevin. The water was chilly due to the mid week cold weather and there was skim ice on the river which had melted and dropped the temp. Sunday's pool fish hit 2 lbs. Fishing was also very good in Jamaica Bay on Sunday, as the water there is deeper.

Sal at **Stella Maris Tackle** says that the only thing happening right now is flounders and both Jamaica Bay and the Navesink River on the Jersey side have been producing best.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** tells of an average of 6 flounders a man at Great Kills Park and Princess Bay. These have been the 2 best spots through the weekend. Fish have been going from ½ to ¾ lb. with sharpies bagging 2-2½ dozen keepers. Either sand or blood worms have been doing it on both tides. Small bass have been seen swimming in the harbor.

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GREENPORT

AP White Bait & Tackle tells of good flounder fishing at Roses Grove and at the Sag Harbor Ferry. Art says that 70 flounder, all keepers, were caught by two anglers fishing from a private boat out of **Port of Egypt Marina**, fishing Roses Grove. Boats are averaging 12 to 15 keepers a boat with worm and mussel baits working best. Art says that the **Brand X** and **Peconic Star** will be starting operation the beginning of April and that the tackle shop will be opening up this weekend on a 7 day a week basis for the season.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that boats that he had out on Sunday all had some flounder up to a couple of dozen of keepers per boat. Fishing was mainly off Goose Creek and Beixedon, fish running from ¾ to 1 lb. The waters off Gull Pond and the Oyster Factory have also been producing a few flounder. Orient Harbor has also produced a few larger

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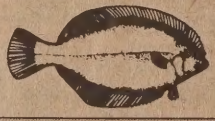

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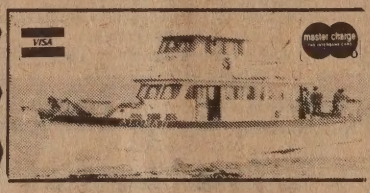

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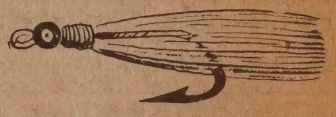

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fish. On Saturday one of the boats from the marina with 3 men aboard fished Roses Grove and had 70 good size keepers using mussel and worm and plenty of mussel chum. Ace says the Orient Point Station will be open by April 15th.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt Marty's Fishing Station says that things broke loose on Thursday. Howard Beach flounder pounder Dom DeRanieri had 57 flatties from ¾ to 1½ lbs. fishing South Race between buoys 25 and 26. This is south of Robin's Island and worm and mussel did the trick. On Sunday 50 good keeper flounders were the reward for Cliff Brown and Ray Fitzhuegh. These fish ran up to 1¾ lb. and were caught in the same place as Dom's fish on worm and mussel. Mussel chum in a pot right under the boat is the key to success. Bill from the station took 42 flounders in the same area. Best time has been just 2 hours on either side of the high or low slack.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** asked us to let you know that on Friday, April 3rd he will be startin up again for flounders, sailing 7 a.m. daily.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait & Tackle tells us that things have slowed down in the Shinnecock canal but have picked up in Heady Creek at the east side of Shinnecock Bay, with fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. Both tides are working, with catches best on the incoming. Thom says catches have been particularly good from the beach. Worm, clam and mussels on the hook with chumming a must. Three Mile Harbor and Accabonac Harbor are also producing flatties. Thom says he is now open on a 7 day a week schedule for the season.

THREE MILE HARBOR

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reports that they had 2 boats out on Saturday. One had 21 keeper flounders in the 1½ to 2 lb. class using mussel and clam chum. In the other boat was Dennis Kennedy of Selden who scored with 26 flounders from 1 to 2 lbs. Dennis said that he bases his success on heavy mussel and clam chumming. Mrs. Cox advises that a reservation is necessary if you want to be assured of a boat.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph of **Ralph's Fishing Station** reported a few small flounder taken in the harbor this past weekend, but a spell of mild weather is needed to really get things going. He asked us to remind customers that the station will be all ready to go with boats in the water for the first weekend in April.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **O.K. Bait and Tackle** said that flounder fishing is just getting started, with some fish being taken off the beach and his marina dock on worms. One boat fished the river Sunday and returned with a few early

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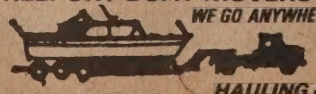

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run flatties.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** said that flounder fishing inside the harbor is off to a very good start. Flatties are being taken from inside beaches, and docks as well as by boatmen. Lloyd Harbor and Duck Island appear to have an edge in the early fishing, with most of the fish in the 1/2 to 1 lb. class. Worms and clams working best as baits with heavy chumming essential for the better scores. George was also enthused about the excellent spring run of bass at the power plant where fish ranging from shorts up to 7 and 8 lbs. have been taken on worms, bucktails, Tri-Fin Whiptails and small Rebels. Here and there a larger fish butts in on the action. Biggest that George has looked over so far this winter has been an 18 lber., although there were rumors of a 30 taken by one angler.

GLEN COVE

John at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** spoke of very good flounder fishing in the area. He described a catch of 35 flatties up to 1 lb. 11 oz. made on Sunday by Joseph Dytrych at the Prybil Pier. Joe fished outgoing tide and used worms to make this fine catch. Clams have also been effective in the area, but John suggested cutting them into long, thin strips for best results. Aside from the fishing front, John reminded that the shop is offering free Tide Tables to anyone stopping in. Also fly tying classes are going strong and anyone interested need only call the shop for more information. Monday night, March 30 is free movie night. Starting time is at 7:30; door prizes will be awarded and pre-registering by phone is required.

Captain Joe Finke of the open boat **Lady Lil** said that Saturday was a bad day due to difficult weather conditions. Sunday was fantastic as demonstrated by Chico Rodriguez of Port Washington who totalled 50 flounder. Frank Gona and Dan Lay of Bayside combined for 95 flounders from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. Fishing was done along the Bayville shore.

CITY ISLAND

The word from **Jack's Bait and Tackle** was that there are lots of flounder being taken by casters in Orchard Beach Lagoon. Fish are in the 1/2 to 1 lb. class and sand worms have been accounting for the best scores. Best action has been during last of the incoming and first of the outgoing. Open boats from the area have been running east to Oyster Bay where they have been enjoying good action. Jack asked us to remind customers that he will have boats ready to go for this weekend.

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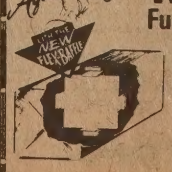

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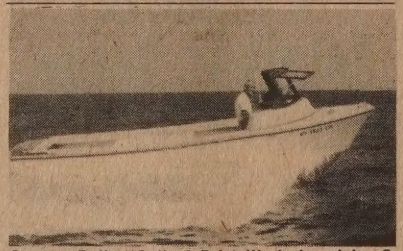

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23' '77 Mako, 255 h.p. Merc.; 26' '77 Pacemaker FB, SF, 220 Crusader FWC; 31' '74 Bertram FB, SF T350s FWC. Loaded; 36' '74 Chris Craft FB, SF T300s FWC; 38' '73 Egg Harbor FB, SF, T330s FWC. Loaded; 40' '78 Ocean FB, SF, T GM671 diesels. Loaded. PORT YACHT SALES, INC. Offices at Capri Marina, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050; 516-883-4073 and 101 Surf Ave., Port Jefferson, N.Y.; 516-928-6840.

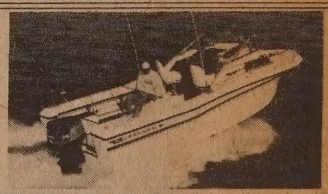
SEA RAY 16', 18 gal. Built-in gas tank, 60 h.p. Johnson O/B, floodlight, depth finder, accessories. Shoreline galv. trailer, spare wheel, jack. Super condition. Asking. $2500. 516-799-6686 Evenings.

1977 24' MAINE Design custom sportfisherman or commercial. Lehman Ford Diesel 80 h.p.; 167 hrs; 2 gph. $14,500. 516-422-0261.

Sailboat 1974 Oday 23' Pop-top. Sleeps 5; 9.9 outboard. Many accessories. Well cared for. Call after 5PM. 621-2056.

1974 CHRIS CRAFT 23' Tournament Fisherman. Excellent condition; 200 h.p. inboard. Lots of extras. $8800. Call 212-697-3599 Weekday eves after 6PM.

26' STAMAS F.G. Twin 6s OMC. Low hrs. Full electronics with Si-Tex recorder. Good anchor; alarm, custom cabinets; down and outriggers. New canvas. Many extras. Rigged for the serious fisherman. All in excellent condition. $14,500. Eves. 212-843-5625.



GRADY-WHITE 22' Bimini: trailerable family fish; 2 lg. fish boxes & 2 insul. ice boxes; both with overboard drains. Two aft bait boxes. Big 75 sq. ft. self-bailing cockpit. Factory auth. Johnson & OMC parts & repairs. Spring tune-up, moorings, storage, financing. Also, see the PRIVATEER - low cost center console for baymen and serious fishermen. Eddie's Marine, est. 1940, in Lawrence at Atlantic Beach Bridge, on Reynolds Channel. 212-327-3168.

WANTED: 25' Grady-White Kingfish with twin 470 I/Os. Call: 201-830-2093.

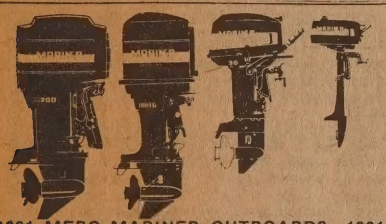
Hydra-Sports—the Kevlar difference; 18' through 24' consoles and cuddies in stock for demonstrations. Auth. Evinrude sales and service. Custom rigging. Financing. DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 1810 North Sea Road, Southampton, NY. 516-283-6736.

EVINRUDE® MAKO Grover built DIESEL CUSTOM DIESEL POWER
★ WHOLESALE ★ RETAIL ★ EXPORT ★ WHOLESALE ★ RETAIL
AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510 AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510 AL GROVER'S (516) 378-0510

MARINER OUTBOARDS. Sales - service - parts; 2 h.p. thru 175 h.p. In stock. Village Marine, Mattituck, N.Y. 516-298-5800.

AQUASPORT 22' 2'' Center Console; like new. 125 h.p. Evinrude + 10 h.p. kicker, trailer. Complete canvas. Many extras. $6495. CAPTREE BOAT SALES, 516-581-8888.

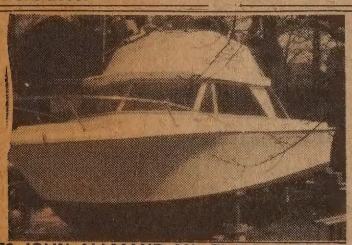
1979 SEA RAY 24' cuddy, 260 OMC, s/s prop., s/s water pump. SI-Tex recorder, sonar D/F, CB. Full canvas; head, swim platform. Excellent fishing and family boat. $13,500 or I will take as partial payment a 21' to 25' center console. 799-8368.



1981 MERC MARINER OUTBOARDS. 1981 Quicksilver accessories also available. 2-$269; 4-$430; 5-$550; 8-$640; 9.9-$810; 15-$890; 25-$1080; 30-$1140; 40-$1250; 50-$1695; 60-$2010; 70-$2125; 80-$2305; 90-$2450; 115-$2615; 150-$3380; 175-$3580; 200-$3660. F.O.B. Shipping arranged. SPORTS MARINE, 201-736-3909, Essex County, NJ or 201-584-2498, Morris County, NJ.

GRADY WHITE 1979 24' Weekend. 260 I/O, OMC. Compass, depth finder, VHF. Low hrs. Like new. $14,200 FIRM. Days: 914-478-2990. Nights: 212-359-6021. Ask for Tony.

1981 JOHNSONS: 35-$1269; 50-$1908; 60-$2199; 70-$2298; 90-$2646; 115-$2808; 140-$3312; 150-$3646; 175-$3857; 200-$3940; 235-$4138. FOB. Call for low, low prices on Mercruiser, OMC, Volvo I/O repower units. Installation available. R.C. Center Marine, 652 Montauk Hwy., Center Moriches. 516-878-2698.



1972 JOHN ALLMAND 23', Flybridge Ticonderoga, dual stations. New Morse controls; Si-Tex flasher and recorder; custom winter top and canvas; VHS, CB, 500' 3/8 nylon line, 400 hrs. total time. Professionally maintained and in excellent condition. $6450. 516-764-4557 after 6PM. 212-274-9000 Days.

1980 PROLINE 17' Center Console. Fisherman's delight; w/85 Johnson TNT. Includes: Bimini top, custom canvas, pole holders. Used less than 15 hrs. Bonus—if purchased before April 1 will include SST prop. and Raytheon depth flasher recorder. Full pkg. cost over $7500. Will sell—$5300. Eves. 516-585-1778.

1978 200 h.p. Evinrude. Used only one season and completely reconditioned. New power trim, prop, plugs, etc. Long Shaft. Ready to go. Call Al Ristori at 201-334-8059, or leave message at LIF, 516-725-4200.

1978 WELLCRAFT V-20 175 h.p. Johnson Power trim/tilt; SST. Very fast 50 mph + and very economical. Custom rigged for offshore. Dual batteries; tach., VHF radio, compass, spare prop. Lowrance depth finder with alarm. Lowrance white line chart recorder; insulated fish box with cushion. Fuel/water separator. Two bilge pumps. Extra cleats; winter canvas. $8450. 516-669-8982 Eves.

1967 Dorset Calif. Sptfish. All fiberglass; FB & Bimini; VHF. Ross recorder. Much more. Twin crusaders; FWC. Mint condition; one owner. Eves. 212-680-3857.

'76 CATALINA 22' retractable keel with trailer, VHF, OB 6 h.p., dinghy, mooring. Extras. Excellent condition. 757-1918.

Pair 1977 255 h.p. Mercruisers, FWC, short blocks with heads, $500 pair. Penn 16/0 with Dacron $100. Fenwick 80 lb., 50 lb. Make offer. All excellent. 929-4881 or 929-8285.

CHRIS CRAFT CUTLASS 22' Center Console 283 FWC. Fast and economical outriggers; CB, compass, spare prop. Depth finder, fuel/water separator; auto. bilge pump. Deep keel. Good for offshore and inlet fishing. Mint condition. $4200. 585-1563.

SHAMROCK 25' 9''. Taking orders for Pilot House or Open Fisherman. Gas or diesel. Shamrock 20', all models in stock. New 1981s now in. ROVINA, 516-728-0922; used cuddy & trailer $11,500.

1972 COBIA 17' 60 h.p. Johnson. Teleflex steering; I/O carpet; walk-thru windshield. New 6 gal. gas tank. Asking $1500. 516-741-8629 Eves.

Chrysler Outboards. Repairs & parts. New 75 h.p. $1785. 55 h.p. $1475. In stock only. Village Marine, Mattituck, NY. 516-293-5800.

20 h.p. Mariner Outboard, 1979. Used less than 30 hours. Absolutely mint showroom condition. Meticulously maintained. Wiring harness, 6 gal. gas tank. 1700. Eves. 212-634-4075.

23' CHRIS CRAFT Lancer 1973; 350 hrs. Volvo I/O auto. anchor. Trim tabs; 2 new batteries, VHF, depth, head. Many extras; clean. $6500. 516-822-5121 - Wknds & Eves. 212-857-5689 Days.

1970 LUHRS Fiberglass, 225 Chrysler FWC, Flybridge. Dual controls; monomatic head. Complete galley. Sleeps 4. New Morse controls and cable. New manifolds; 2 Pompanette fighting chairs; S.S. gin pole. Bimini top. Equipped for blue water fishing. VHF, etc. Price $9800. Excellent cond. 212-359-2751; 212-886-5968.

21' Fiberglass w/cuddy cabin, 115 Mercury OB, rebuilt 1980; CB, DF, outriggers. New upholstery. 1977 Shoreline E-Z Load Trailer. Excellent. $3895. Days: 293-4646. Eves. 757-3112. Greenlawn, NY

GRADY WHITE '77 Chesapeake 21', OMC 175 I/O; VHF/DF. Extras. Yard maintained. 212-225-4191.

1974 SEACRAFT SF 23, Mercury 175 h.p. Outboard. Showco Trailer, Ritchie compass; Dolphin depth recorder, Dytex seawater tem.; many extras. Perfect condition. $10,000. 203-889-7131.

28' UNIFLITE Salty Dog: fast, economical, equipped to fish. VHF, recorder, C-Loran. All like new. Asking $24,500. Call 201-267-3857. After 6PM.

1973 MAKO 20' 1977 Johnson 140 h.p. with 1980 power head. Bimini top; spray hood; dual batteries. Bilge pump; two downriggers, 3 drawer teak tackle box; CB and antenna. Two anchors, 14 rod holders, Ritchie 5'' compass. 1980 E-Z loader trailer; brakes; 10,000 lb. power winch. Gemtronics white line recorder. Boat always trailered. Very clean. Yard maintained. $9800 FIRM. R. Roberts, 31 Seley Dr., N. Babylon, NY 11703

1977 MAKO 25' Deep V - 200 h.p. Johnson. Full canvas. Outriggers, recorder, VHF; extras. Engine needs work. $12,500. 516-599-4325.

1975 22' MAKO 135 Evinrude. Depth finder. Bimini top. Built-in compass. Baitwell, bilge pump; extra rod holders. Spare prop. In good condition. 212-885-2570 between 5-11PM. Good buy. $5000.

FOR SALE: Mercury 4 h.p., long shaft outboard w/tank, 3½ gal. remote. Hardly used in freshwater only. Perfect for aux. trolling. $200. 914-769-1392 Eves.

18' Fiberglass Cruisers Open Fisherman Hull w/Bimini top. New seats and extras. Very good cond. $850. Eves. 212-258-3540.

Cruiser, Inc. '77, 21' 80 Johnson 200 h.p., SST, trailer, CB, DF. Extras. $8375. After 4PM. 516-567-3411.

1979 15 h.p. Sears Gamefisher. Excellent running condition; low hours. With tank. $525 FIRM. 212-537-6808.

FOR SALE: 1976 Cruisers Inc., 22' Full camperback canvas. Cuddy cabin; refrig., sink, compass. Sleeps 2. Porta-Potti, 115 Johnson. Complete Coast Guard pkg. Swim ladder; brand new battery. Low hrs.; CB mount and antenna. Excellent family fishing boat. Must sell; buying new boat. $6950. Call 516-887-7865.

1976 12' SEARS Gamefisherman; 7½ h.p. Merc. Extras. $800. 516-433-5123.

24' Custom Cuttyhunk Bass Boat - Silverton Sea Skif. Chrysler FWC Slant 6; dual batteries, dual tiller steering & controls, fish box. Chairs; and many extras. 914-628-8912. Ask. $2350.

1971 18' Winner & 60 h.p. Johnson. Excellent condition. Eves. 823-1927.

1977 115 h.p. Evinrude with controls. Needs work on power head. $500. 516-981-7493.

19' MAKO 115 h.p. 1978 Mercury w/power trim; CB; white line recorder; mercathode. Compass, tach., voltmeter. Outriggers; console cover; spray hood; 1978 Shoreline EZ19 Galvanized trailer w/5000# power winch. $6250. 516-732-1414 8-5.

BOATING EQPT.

100% Stainless Steel marine products: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpits. Custom & Standard products available. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave. & Hwy. #35, Neptune City, NJ 07753; 201-988-8818. Marine catalog $1.

TRAILER HITCHES. The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock in Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

Discount prices on Evinrude and Johnson outboard accessories. Send for price list. BURCK, INC., 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464. 212-885-1559.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIRS: Complete with all new galvanized parts & a complete line of top quality Marine Supplies at discount prices. FAZIO Mfg. Inc., 87 Arlington Ave., St. James, N.Y. 11780. 516-265-3036.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

Loran C by Mieco. Automatic tracking, model 6811 w/sun visor. Perfect condition. $400. Capt. Garry, 516-968-8969.

COMPLETE TUNING of your VHF radio may solve poor performance problems. If yours hasn't been looked at in over a year, have it bench-checked (no charge when technician is in) at HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Highway, Islip. 516-581-0194.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

RDF - Ray Jeff Model 6140. Like new. $60. Egg Harbor Drop-leaf salon table. Like new $50. Marine plywood dock dunnage box 30'' x 48''. $35. 333-6417.

FISHING TACKLE

FREE BROCHURE—Best damn fishing rigs money can buy! AQUA-CLEAR TACKLE, 314 Cherry Rd., Atco, NJ 08004.

FOUR SEASONS RIGS. Custom fishing rig manufacturer. ''Night-Glow'' & Hot Pink whiting and ling; also flounder corn special, Tandem red dot fluke, High-Low pearl weakfish, Bluefish mullet. Over 60 different saltwater rigs. Dealers inquiries welcome. 940 Harrison Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753. 201-929-1881.

Penn Senator 12-0 with 120 lb. woven Dacron. All new - with Loh Bros. rod and harness vest. $225. Eves. 516-623-3160.

Free Catalog. Fine saltwater fishing tackle at low, low prices. Write to: WEST FALMOUTH TACKLE, Box 690E, West Falmouth, MA 02574.

Continued On Next Page

BUCKTAILS. Hand-tied. Top quality. Bugeye design for Del. Bay trout. $9.50 dozen. Wilmington, Del. and Media, Pa. 302-994-0729; 215-565-1983.

FOR SALE: 2 Garcia Mitchell Reels. Complete pole and line. Used few times. $45 Take All. 212-278-5119.

Glow rig (Luminescent)—designed to catch whiting by the sack. Send $1.25 and also receive free catalog. HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. IG, Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032.

St. Croix, America's fishing rod manufacturer for over 30 yrs. offers an "ANGLER'S ANTHOLOGY" combined with a mini-catalog of St. Croix products. This 36-pg. booklet contains hundreds of facts and tips about all types of fishing equipment and instructions as to their usage. Send $1.50 for booklet and receive a free St. Croix Shoulder Patch. ST. CROIX OF PARK FALLS, LTD., P.O. Box 279, Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552.

EVERYTHING for the saltwater fisherman. Quality tackle at lowest prices. Free catalog. SALT WATER TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG1, Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540.

SPECIAL OFFER—3 hand-tied proven killer flounder or blackfish rigs for only $1.75. Write for rigs or free catalog. RELIABLE FISHING TACKLE, P.O. Box 195, Rockaway Park, 11694.

Catch more fish...with super designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, N.J. 07032.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stainless steel 6' commercial freezer. A-1 cond. $600. Also Coca-Cola ice chest, 6' long for drinks or groceries. Make offer. 516-MO 1-2764.

Marine Transport—T.K.'s BOAT HAULING. You call; we haul! 24 hr. Emergency Service. Local & Long Distance; launching and hauling at any desired location. Up to 35'. Fully insured carrier. Call: T.K., 516-623-2967.

Marine Drapes & Interiors. Thousands of patterns and fabrics. Cushions to carpets. FOREAN KUSTOM, 549-9489.

MATE Wanted—Experienced. For weekends and some weekdays. On Freeport charter boat. Days: 516-378-4838. Eves: 516-379-7614.

PACIFIC SAILFISH MOUNT: 8½' of commanding, attention-grabbing splendor! Two-years-old, great for office or restaurant. $350. 516-499-2288.

BOAT INSURANCE—All risk. 12-month policy with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Quick quotations. Paul Krause, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, N.Y. 11795. 516-587-7837.

FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Heavy, solid metal buckles in handsome, antiqued finish. Your choice of striped bass, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke, flounder, shark, harpoon dart. Hundreds sold. Money back within 7 days if not satisfied! Send ck or M.O. for $7 to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566. Also available: striper pin $7; striper medal $9.95.

BIG PROFITS! Reconditioning, rebuilding discarded batteries. Complete manual. Send $5.95. Everlast, Box 365, Bogota, N.J. 07603.

Boat Lettering—Have an idea? Need one? Creative and professional work. Call: Richie, 516-666-9656.

FISHERMAN'S LOG: record your fishing trips on beautiful, pre-printed fishing log. Contains: Trip #, Date, Crew, Fishing Area, weather/wind; water condition, water temp.; fished-for, fish caught and remarks. 8½x11 loose leaf sheets. Fits 2 or 3 hole binders. Choice of striped bass or bluefish background. 100 sheets $3.98 + $1 post. & handling. Send check or money order to: T. Spinelli, RD #5, Box 292, Jackson, NJ 08527.

OPPORTUNITY for fully licensed captain, with or without boat, to run charter or open fishing operation out of well-established Fire Island Inlet Marina. Please indicate operating expenses, experience, etc. P.O. Box 922, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570.

EMBLEMS—Direct from manufacturer. Swiss embroidered; custom made to your design. Send sample or sketch and quantity needed for free quotation. DAVID HAEMMERLE & Sons, Inc., Box 711, W. New York, NJ 07093.

PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS. Rare breed. Fisherman's friend and companion. Intelligent! Good disposition! Non-shedding; allergy free. Call: 516-587-4249.

Custom made seats. Buy local, not Florida. Recoveries of fold-down seats. Don't wait for spring. Bring them in now. Call for price. FOREAN KUSTOM 549-9489.

Wholesale Marine Fasteners. Stainless, silicon bronze. Full line. Shop parts. O-Rings. Free catalog. ARONMARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, New York 11951; 516-281-3366.

LOBSTER TRAPS & LOBSTER FISHING EQUIPMENT. Lath, frames, funnels, warp buoys, Osco haulers & parts. Everything! 516-427-4063.

MATE WANTED: Experienced offshore, Moriches charterboat. Mostly weekends. Send particulars. Box 488, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978.

KNIVES—KNIVES—KNIVES
The finest selection of fisherman's knives available. Send $1 for "The Anglers Catalog of Knives." MI-DE-SU PRODUCTS, 67 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801.

YARD SPACE for your boat on trailer. Easy access. Good central location for North or South Shore launching. 212-320-1897 or 212-767-7264.

BEACH BUGGIES

1964 FORD Step Van. (Alum.) Camper - stove, potty, sink and water tank. 1200 x 15 tires. Beach driveable, excellent mileage. Extras. Evenings. 516-582-4872. $2100. Firm.

REAL ESTATE

Fishing Station For Sale— bar, grill, bait and tackle. 24 boats, 12 motors. Ideal Seaford location. $35,000. Negotiable. 516-884-2787.

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Station business & equip. for sale. $8500 pays all. Land lease available. Low rent; immed. takeover. Call 516-363-6024 after 6PM.

FOR SALE: Existing small boat Marina, rental skiffs, tackle shop, refrigeration and workshop. South Fork, Eastern L.I. Estate Sale. Owner. 516-324-2550.

WATERFRONT CO-OP APARTMENTS, Township of Southampton. $42,000; 9½%, 30-yr. financing offering by prospectus only. For appointment, call: Gold Key, 516-728-1100.

NATIONAL SCENE:

(Continued from page 9.)

cutting blanks and special rulers for aligning guides and making decorative wraps for a custom built look on any rod. Not only are rod making materials available, but also everything you need to make up your own spinners, jigs, and soft plastic lures. Blanks by Rodon, Loomis, Shakespeare, Fenwick, Lamiglas, and Dynaflex are catalogued. If you can't find what you want locally, send $1 (refundable on first order) to Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters, 14303 Robcaste Road, Phoenix, Maryland 21131. A free consultation service is available to their customers.

It Was Nice to Meet You!

It was a real pleasure to meet the many FISHERMAN readers who stopped by the Ava Tackle booth, or attended one of the clinics I put on at the World Outdoor Exposition in Suffern, February 28 and March 1. It's nice to know that there are really fishermen out there reading this column and taking action on some of the important efforts we're involved in to improve fisheries for the future. The show itself was a tremendous success, with record attendance and a huge number of strictly outdoor-oriented booths. If you didn't get there this year, make Paul Fuller's show a "must" on next year's schedule!

FISH TALK:

(Continued from page 10.)

states where they are released mostly into impoundments and lakes. However, what we need are several of these plants at important nursery areas to release this number of juveniles annually into the sea. The possibility of using East Coast hatched fish to plant on the West Coast has been raised, yet officials are worried about the unknown effects of mixing genes of the two groups. Although the West Coast fish originally were shipped from the East Coast in the 1880s, after one hundred years of independent existence, the two gene pools probably are quite different.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE. Perhaps some of you have seen the news stories lately about the development of a strain of blue lobsters at the New York Ocean Science Lab. Scientists have been playing with the genetics of lobsters for some time now, with the hope of shortening their life cycle and uncovering key facts. In Nature, it takes a lobster about seven years to reach legal size and needless to say, there is a lot of money in it for someone who can come up with a way to farm them at a significant reduction in that time period. Blue lobsters do occur in Nature, although they are rare; but in the laboratory they have now been bred out so that a strain of pure lobsters is the result. Blue lobsters could be a very convenient aid in studying the habits and migratory patterns of lobsters and without the possible dangers of markers and tags. Now, it is true that a lobster can be encouraged to change its color by diet control and lobsters that eat shrimp will turn blue. However, this strain of blue lobsters was not nutritionally induced and they will not revert back to the "normal" color when fed a normal diet; and that makes them permanent tools for the researcher in the field.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-POINT AM	BRIDGE-POINT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	11:15	11:40	–	12:15	–	12:05	12:45	1:15	2:15	2:45	2:35	3:00	11:30	11:55	3/26
FRI.	–	12:05	12:40	1:10	12:15	12:45	1:35	2:10	2:55	3:30	3:20	3:50	–	12:25	3/27
SAT.	12:35	12:55	1:30	2:05	1:00	1:35	2:30	3:15	3:45	4:25	4:10	4:45	12:50	1:25	3/28
SUN.	1:30	2:00	2:35	3:10	1:55	2:40	3:25	4:15	4:40	5:25	5:10	5:45	1:55	2:25	3/29
MON.	2:35	3:10	3:35	4:10	3:00	3:55	4:25	5:10	5:40	6:30	6:05	6:40	2:55	3:25	3/30
TUE.	3:40	4:15	4:35	5:05	4:15	5:00	5:20	6:00	6:45	7:35	7:05	7:35	3:50	4:20	3/31
WED.	4:45	5:15	5:35	6:00	5:20	5:55	6:15	6:45	7:50	8:30	8:00	8:30	4:45	5:10	4/1
THUR.	5:40	6:05	6:25	6:45	6:15	6:40	7:05	7:30	8:45	9:20	8:50	9:20	5:35	6:00	4/2

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

3/27	5:52	6:20
3/28	5:50	6:21
3/29	5:48	6:22
3/30	5:46	6:23
3/31	5:44	6:24
4/1	5:43	6:25
4/2	5:41	6:26

Moonrise/Moonset

3/27	–	9:56AM
3/28	12:52AM	10:42AM
3/29	1:44AM	11:33AM
3/30	2:33AM	12:31PM
3/31	3:17AM	1:34PM
4/1	3:59AM	2:42PM
4/2	4:37AM	3:42PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
3/6	3/13	3/20	3/28

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SHIMANO MLZ

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- Precision-cut Gears
- Sleek Silver Bodies
- Shimano's Patented Disc Drag
- Colfor® (Cold Forged) Spools
- Roller Line Guide
- Fast Retrieve
- Stainless Steel Bail Wire

MLZ-60
Large capacity surf.

MLZ-50
River, jetty and boat.

MLZ-40
Salt water bucktail.

MLZ-30
Bass and walleye.

MLZ-20
Trout and smallmouth.

MLZ-10
Ultra-lite trout.

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Reels shown actual size.

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